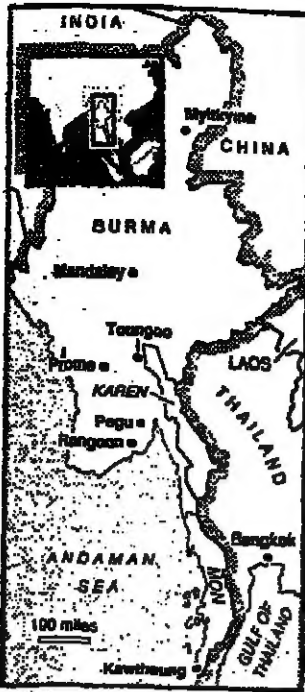


Burma on brink of civil war as 1,000 rioters die



By Neil Kelly in Bangkok and Our Foreign Staff

As the Burmese crisis accelerated to the verge of civil war last night a Western diplomat estimated 1,000 people had died since the rioting began at the weekend. With unrest reported from the north to the country's southernmost port, the Government of General Sein Lwin appeared to be about to lose control of the country.

Rumours were rife that there were serious splits in the military and that troops in the central command region around Yangon were fighting among themselves.

Rangoon radio said that troops had opened fire on crowds 18 times during the day and the dead included a policeman captured by the demonstrators and a civilian, mistaken for a policeman, who was beaten to death.

In its first direct statement on the spreading insurrection the Government vowed to continue their

hardline opposition to the unrest. The Prime Minister, U Tun Tin, said the security forces were "doing what is necessary for the defence and security of the state".

The Army Chief of Staff, General Saw Maung, also speaking in a radio broadcast, said saboteurs had undermined peaceful protests and formed mobs that resorted to anarchy.

The executive committee of the Burma Socialist Programme Party was meeting under General Sein Lwin throughout the day trying to find a solution to the continuing unrest.

Among yesterday's reported but unconfirmed incidents was loss of control of the southern port of Kawthaung. Thais living across the water from the port said they saw demonstrations throughout the day calling for the end of socialist rule and the release of jailed colleagues.

In another incident diplomats

reported the refusal of troops of the 66th Light Infantry Division in Prome to shoot at crowds; reports from Prome, north of Rangoon, said troops of the eastern command in the Shan state rebel area had gone over to the protesters.

One report said the commander of the troops had been executed

and that the administration had collapsed.

An Italian tourist reported that railway lines beyond Prome had been blown up and tourists were being taken back to the capital by lorry. A 27-truck convoy, loaded with arrested demonstrators, was seen heading north out of the capital.

The diplomatic community in Rangoon is anxious for the outside world to know the truth about this week's events in Burma. A diplomat who flew into Bangkok said the most important fact was that

almost all the dead and wounded were unarmed demonstrators who had been shot by security forces while protesting peacefully.

At the outset of this week's protests the rioters possessed no weapons but they had since captured guns and were making petrol bombs. Reports of dissension within the armed forces were numerous and the diplomat believed that civil war was a real danger unless the Government quickly met some of the people's demands.

These were the removal of President Sein Lwin; restoration of democracy with political parties permitted to run for election, and relief from economic hardship. He doubted if the situation could be brought under control while President Sein Lwin remained in power.

"The Burmese Army apparently feels it is necessary to shoot down unarmed people," he said. Based on the number of bodies seen in

temples, hospitals and elsewhere, he said it had been estimated that between 300 and 400 people had been killed in the capital alone. According to the Burmese Government fewer than 100 people have been killed, nine of them soldiers or police. "Hunger is the driving force behind the rebellion," said the diplomat. "There's little food in the markets and anyway most people don't have the money to buy it."

He described support for the protests as "virtually 100 percent" and said the demonstrations appeared spontaneous and involved people of all ages and sections of society. He confirmed reports that anti-government groups had taken control of several areas outside Rangoon.

Most foreign diplomats believed that government appeals for calm would go unheard and that there was virtually no time for the Government to implement its

promised reforms. Soon after taking office President Sein Lwin offered economic reforms, a clean-up of corruption and more open government.

The crack of rifle fire throughout the day was accompanied by what the Government said was preparation of petrol bombs by protesters who had rioted, destroying and looting government buildings.

Many of the protesters appeared to have been enraged by an incident on Tuesday when troops opened fire outside the Rangoon General Hospital killing at least one doctor and several nurses. Troops are said to have opened fire when medical staff formed up outside the building to protest that they could no longer treat patients as they had run out of blood, drugs and other supplies.

One tourist, who returned to Bangkok, said he saw dried blood on the pavement and bullet holes in the walls.

£2bn hotels sale leaked

Leading bank sacks two for inside dealing

By David Brewerton

Two dealers at County NatWest WoodMac, the investment banking arm of the National Westminster Bank, have been sacked for dealing on inside information about the proposed £2 billion sale of Inter-Continental Hotels.

The company is the stockbroker to the owner of Inter-Continental,

Grand Metropolitan, and information about the proposed sale leaked from the bank's corporate finance department to the dealing room.

Before the proposed sale was announced to the Stock

Last night, County NatWest and National Westminster Bank would only confirm that two people had been dismissed. "It is not our policy to discuss staff matters," said a spokesman.

Exchange, the two dealers bought Grand Metropolitan shares from other market makers. When the sale was announced, the shares jumped 25p each in value.

It appears that the two dealers were acting not in their own financial interests but for the bank itself, which was unaware of the dealings. When it was discovered, they were sacked.

It is understood that National Westminster has offered to cancel the deals done.

The breach of security within one of the City's leading merchant banks is a major embarrassment to County NatWest. The incident occurred on Monday, and the two dealers, both in their twenties, were dismissed on Wednesday.

The chairman and chief executive of County NatWest WoodMac, Mr John Chiene, was unavailable yesterday, as was Mr Terry Green, chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank and County NatWest Limited. The immediate superior of the two sacked dealers, Mr Colin Mills, head of market making at County NatWest WoodMac, said he could not comment.

However, *The Times* understands that the two dealers are

Mr Stephen Floyd and Mr Russell Kean. Mr Kean moved to County NatWest WoodMac recently from Chase Manhattan Securities. He was admitted to the Stock Exchange only in 1986, the year of "Big Bang".

Some dealers in the stock market feel that the two have been made a scapegoat for a breakdown in security. "Once they had the information, they could not win," commented one dealer. "If they acted on it and got found out, they would be sacked. If they did nothing, they would have lost their firm money."

The breach of security worries is of concern to the Stock Exchange, which will be contacting the compliance officer at County NatWest to establish how the so-called "Chinese Wall" which separates banking and advisory business from investment dealing broke down.

Mr Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan for which County NatWest was acting as adviser, said the first he knew of the incident was when he was telephoned by a newspaper.

"We do not know what happened at (County NatWest) WoodMac. Our shares were rising slightly by mid morning," he added.

Mr Sheppard said that Grand Metropolitan "did all the right things" and informed the Stock Exchange of the proposed sale before making a public announcement.

The incident is the latest of several mishaps at County NatWest involving its dealing staff. Last year, at least four employees were dismissed from the company when a trainee accountant ran up losses of £1 million dealing in options (high risk contracts to buy or sell shares at a predetermined price at some time in the future).

Merged benefit fraud unit being considered

By Robin Oakley and Kerry Gill

The Government is expected to establish a single fraud investigation unit, merging those of the Social Security and Employment Departments, within the lifetime of this parliament. The move would concentrate full-time on exposing people who defraud the benefit system.

As a first step, Ministers within the Department of Social Security are expected to set up separate squads of

investigators in regional offices.

The idea of creating a separately funded anti-fraud agency within regional organisations of the former DHSS was one of about 50 recommendations in a recent internal report on the working methods of the department compiled by officials. It is now being studied by ministers.

Report, page 20

Barlow Clowes creditors receive a 'scapegoat'

By Robin Young

Mr Edward Dolman had a hard time yesterday, confronting some 700 small investors who had lost money in Barlow Clowes. Mr Dolman is the official receiver. What he was at Central Hall, Westminster, to receive, it seemed, was the rough edge of creditors' tongues.

Failing the attendance of the free spending Mr Peter Clowes ("I would break his legs if I could get at him"), one investor said, convincingly or the eloquent Lord Young ("He's wriggling out of his responsibilities"), a woman told the meeting to prolonged applause Mr Dolman evidently suspected that he was to be scapegoat-in-chief.

He was also handicapped. He could not hear questions from the floor and, thanks to television lights, could not see

where they were coming from either. At one point he entered into a laborious explanation of why there must be a voting majority for the appointment of joint liquidators, but many in the

audience had never been to a creditors' meeting before and were vague about what was supposed to be happening.

Mr Dolman's dithering did not help. The receiver first argued against a show of hands, then allowed one, and later tried to insist that its result must be conclusive. The meeting was not having that. Finally he allowed a paper vote.

In the front stalls a woman faints. "Is there a doctor in the house?" It gave some idea of the social standing of people caught in the Barlow Clowes trap

that about a dozen stood up.

Mrs Maron Honeybourne, from Ealing, west London, said she had invested her life savings of more than £30,000 with the group. "The Government wants us to invest for the future and to supplement our pensions, and that was what I was doing on Government advice," she said.

Mr Michael Jordan, who was confirmed as one of the joint liquidators appointed, told the meeting he hoped to achieve the "fullest possible repayment of your monies" by Christmas. The repayment would, he said, be "substantial", but when asked to define "substantial" he said the questioner would have to look it up in a dictionary. A more reassuring and popular figure than the unfortunate Mr Dolman, he actually got a laugh for that.



Mrs Maron Honeybourne: lost life savings of £30,000.

Government move to defuse nursing pay crisis



Nurses gather outside North Manchester General Hospital before burning regrading forms. (Photograph: Barry Greenwood)

Ministry 'clarifies' stance on regrading

By Jill Sherman, Philip Webster and Ian Smith

The Government tried to defuse the growing crisis over nurses' pay last night by declaring that most ward sisters would be graded on higher scales.

The apparent softening in the Government's stance came in a letter from the chairman of the management side in the current pay negotiations, Mr Nicholas Gurney.

The initiative was agreed yesterday with Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health minister, in an attempt to stop an escalation of the industrial action that started in Manchester at lunchtime.

Although it received a cautious welcome last night, there was continuing confusion over the Government's intentions in the carefully worded letter. Health authorities promptly issued a statement saying the exercise had to be fully funded by the Government.

The prospect of more sisters achieving grade G status was initially enough to make health service unions consider their refusal to continue negotiations with the Department of Health.

Continued on page 20, col 1

Runcie in more talks with Iranians

By Andrew McEwen

Efforts by Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to secure the release of Mr Terry Waite and other hostages in Lebanon reached a sensitive stage yesterday when he held a second meeting with a senior Iranian official at Lambeth Palace in London.

The talks coincided with the departure for Iran of a British diplomat, Mr David Redda, on a mission to assess whether it is advisable to resume a permanent diplomatic presence in Iran. He said he hoped to make

progress on the fate of the hostages during his two to three-week visit.

Dr Runcie's talks with Mr Reza Said Mohammadi, who runs the Iranian Foreign Min-

istry's Western European department, raised hopes that Tehran may be ready to use its influence with Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian group believed to be holding Mr Waite.

Dr Runcie made clear that the chances of success depended on discretion. "I believe that everyone who is genuinely concerned about the improvement of

Anglo-Iranian relations and about the British hostages in Lebanon will recognize that there are times when progress can only be made quietly," he said.

A spokesman for the Archbishop added: "The Archbishop feels there are times when the situation can be helped by saying nothing".

It was confirmed, however, that the first meeting, which lasted 75 minutes and was soon after Mr Mohammadi flew in on Wednesday, dealt with Western hostages.

Training international athletes

College for sporting elite

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Britain's first international sports college modelled on schools in East Germany and the Soviet Union will open in September next year.

The college at Ingmanthorpe Hall, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, which will concentrate initially on athletics, golf, soccer, swimming and tennis, will be aimed at producing competitors of international standard.

Ingmanthorpe Hall was previously a private residential school for maladjusted children. It will cater for 240 boys and girls aged between 12 and 18, with fees of £7,000 a year.

A trust fund, the International Scholarship Awards Trust, whose backers include sports-wear and other companies, has been established to organize bursaries and scholarships through commercial and industrial sponsorship.

Mr Ron Pickering, the former athletics coach and sports

commentator, who has been engaged as a consultant, said yesterday: "I have long thought we should have schools of excellence as we do for music and ballet. Sport has been neglected too long."

"I have visited sports schools in Cuba, East Ger-

many and Russia and they are not the dens of iniquity some people claim they are. They are very pleasant places indeed where students are given a rounded education. They are exactly the sort of places I would have given my back teeth to have gone to as a kid."

The other consultants are Mr Charlie Wilson, the former Britain and Olympic swimming coach; Miss Sue Mappin, national women's team manager for the Lawn Tennis Association; Mr Eddie Gray, the

former Scottish international and Leeds United football manager, and Mr Geoffrey Cotton, the golf professional.

Mr Geoffrey Newsome, a founding director of the International Sports College, said in *The Times Educational Supplement* this week: "The Eastern bloc countries were pioneering this concept of combining education with sporting excellence in 1952. Russia has more than 5,000 sports schools attended by 1.75 million pupils spending 25 hours a week on education and another 25 hours a week on sport."

A £1.5 million redevelopment plan, financed from private capital, has been approved by Harrogate Council to provide track, field, pitch and indoor facilities.

The college is also expected to attract students from the US, Japan, Hong Kong, Pakistan, China and Scandinavia.

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Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES
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INDEX	
Home News	2-5
Overseas	7-9
Business	21-27
Sport	32-36
Arts	14
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Business to business	30
Chess	23
City Diary	18, 19
Crosswords	12
Day	18
Entertainment	10, 12, 17
Features	18
Information	13
Law Report	14
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Motoring	28, 29
Obituary	12
On This Day	14
Science Report	10
Social	18
TV & Radio	31
University results	20
Weather	14
Wills	14

NEWS ROUNDUP

Duchess prepares to leave hospital

The Duchess of York and her still unnamed infant daughter are expected to leave hospital this morning. The Duke and Duchess will probably take the baby with them to Balmoral next week, but the Queen — who has not visited the hospital — is likely to have a chance to see her new grandchild before leaving for her Scottish summer holiday with other members of the Royal Family on Monday.

● The Prince and Princess of Wales and their two sons will go against royal tradition today when they all board the same aircraft to fly to Mallorca for a private visit as guests of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia. "It is normal practice for the Prince of Wales not to fly with both his sons, but there is no hard and fast rule", Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

Police plea to blacks

Police appealed to the black community in Birmingham yesterday to track down the two killers of Mr John Worwood, aged 44, the Securicor guard stabbed outside a city centre bank during an attempted robbery on Wednesday. A spokesman said: "Anyone who has committed a crime of this ferocity is going to be highly agitated. The change in their behaviour is going to be noticeable and we are appealing to the community to help us trace them." Mr Gerald Hall, aged 32, a window cleaner stabbed as he tried to help the guard, was in a stable condition yesterday.

Russian Savoy Opera

Muscovites are to have their first taste of Gilbert and Sullivan in 1990, the reformed D'Oyly Carte Opera announced yesterday. It will be the first visit to the Soviet Union in the 106-year history of the company, which was disbanded in 1982 after a cash crisis but revived in March. Mr Dick Condon, the general manager, wrote to the Soviet Embassy suggesting the idea and the head of the artistic department of Goskoutsert, the Soviet concert agency, approved the project after visiting the first night of *Iolanthe* at the Cambridge Theatre in London last month.

Stockton home sold

The family home of the late Lord Stockton, the former prime minister Harold Macmillan, has been sold to an undisclosed buyer for £7 million, £2 million more than the asking price. Birchgrove House, completed in 1926, stands in 1,234 acres of wooded land at Chelwood Gate, East Sussex. It was put on the market two months ago and had attracted about forty prospective buyers, Humberts of London, the agents, said yesterday.

Overseas Aids risks

Heterosexual British men and women are hundreds of times more at risk of contracting Aids while abroad than in the UK, according to a report in *The Lancet* yesterday. Men are 500 times more likely to get Aids overseas, and women about 166 times more at risk. Professor Richard Feachem and Miss Penny Phillips-Howard of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine reported a 20 per cent increase in Aids cases between January and May of this year among Britons probably infected abroad.

Pubs launch ID cards

Voluntary identity cards for people who are old enough to drink but may not look it are to be introduced by the National Licensed Victuallers' Association. Customers will be able to buy them for a nominal fee on production of proof of age. Meanwhile, a round of beer price increases, blamed on high costs, has been announced. Northern drinkers are already starting to pay between 3p to 6p more for a pint, with Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, Whitbread, Grand Metropolitan and Ind Coope raising prices in several regions. Bass and Charrington will follow suit on Monday.

Hodgson shares lead

By Harry Golombek
Julien Hodgson, the young international master, continued his good form in the tenth round of the Kleinwort Benson British Chess Championship at Blackpool yesterday. Hodgson emerged with credit after a hard-fought draw against Glenn Flear, the Leicester grand master, with whom he shares the tournament lead. Robert Bellin, the international master, also played well for another tight draw against Murray Chandler.

Engineering faces shortage of students

By Sam Kiley
Universities Reporter

Universities are faced with a shortfall in the number of applications for places in engineering, pure science and foreign languages, with just a week to go before the publication of A level results.

Administrators fear they will have to resort to the University Central Council on Admissions clearing system, which allocates spare places to students who scored grades below what were needed for their first choice of college.

Mr Nick Fookett, schools liaison officer at Aston University, said there was a gradual decline in the numbers of applications to engineering over the past few years as students had hedged their bets by applying to multi-disciplined courses or the humanities so they were "not committed irrevocably to one field".

Figures from admissions council

published today in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* show a drop of between 10 and 15 per cent in students applying to engineering courses. They also show that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract top students to single-honours foreign language courses.

Applications to Italian courses have fallen by 16 per cent, to French courses by 13 per cent, and to German by 9 per cent, while Russian is the only language for which there has been an increase. Mrs Jennifer Jackson, assistant registrar at King's College, London, said the decline in applications to language courses reflected the increased crowding in subjects available for GCSE, which had deterred students from learning a second language.

According to the educational journal, applications to the seven colleges at the University of Wales are down 6 per cent, producing 300 vacancies,

for clearing. Bangor is the hardest hit with 100 vacancies, covering most subjects except sociology, banking, accountancy and psychology, and Swansea is expected to go to clearing with 20 science places and 20 in engineering.

The Times will publish the places available through the admissions council and the Polytechnics Central Admissions System, from August 24. ● The Law Society is to circulate a consultative document on legal education asking colleges to improve the standard of written English among undergraduates. The moves come in the wake of the Marre report into the future of the legal profession, in which concern was expressed over the ability of graduates to draft documents and show adequate levels of literacy.

According to *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, the document will also ask if there is more that colleges can do to "place law in its

social, commercial and legal context". Concern exists that law graduates are insufficiently prepared to deal with the nature of the business and commercial world and that greater emphasis needs to be made in law courses with the approach of 1992 and the establishment of the single European market.

The Law Society document suggests this imbalance be redressed by splitting the final year of the law course, so that some subjects can be done while the student is undertaking articles, and altering the content of training in the final course to reflect the subjects in which the student will specialize.

● Fifty-six British technology projects linking higher education with industry across Europe will share £1 million of extra funding from the EEC after the latest round of awards from the Community Action Programme for Higher Education and Training for Technology.

Military rejects curbs on flying

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

The Royal Air Force has rejected an international call to ban low flying in uncontrolled airspace by jets using only visual "see and avoid" techniques at more than 287 miles an hour.

Instead it is to join other Nato air forces in drawing up guidelines to enable pilots to fly more safely.

A ban on "see and avoid" procedures for all aircraft travelling at more than 250 knots below 10,000 ft was urged by the Visual Flight Operations Panel of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as part of a report drawn up last year by navigational experts from around the world.

The Nato air forces argued that such a ban would mean an end to effective low flying training. The existing procedure was supported by Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, in the wake of this week's collision between two RAF Tornados in Cumbria, because, he said, it had worked well for many years. "The general principle is — and it works well — see and avoid", he said.

The military is technically exempt from following the civil aviation organization's rules which, when ratified, have the force of law, but because it shares air space with civilian traffic, it normally obeys them.

However, the Visual Flight Operations Panel of ICAO argues that the maximum effective visual range from a cockpit is about five miles, and says it is impossible for

FLIGHTCHECK

pilots to react in time to avoid each other if either is travelling at more than 250 knots.

Some countries favour a complete separation of military and civilian flights but this is rejected by the RAF which believes that airspace over Britain is in such short supply that it must be shared. ● Mr Guy Bell, managing director of Gatwick, yesterday condemned suggestions that the airport is unsafe because of resurfacing of a runway at night.

"It would be more than my job is worth, let alone the lives of the pilots who fly in regularly, to try to operate an airport which did not fully meet all the safety criteria... Gatwick is safe", he said.

● A Virgin Atlantic flight to Newark, New Jersey, from Gatwick was delayed for almost 24 hours yesterday because of technical problems with a Boeing 747 (Emma Wilkins writes).

Passengers expecting to leave at 4.15pm on Wednesday were told the flight would not take off until 3pm yesterday because of damage to one of the plane's engine mountings.

At Manchester, Cal Air flights were delayed for up to two-and-a-quarter hours because of continuing problems with an aircraft damaged almost two weeks ago. A Cal Air flight to Palma was expected to leave at 9.30am, but was delayed until 11am, and another Cal Air flight to Las Palmas, scheduled to leave at 5pm, left at 6.35pm.

At Luton, a British Island Airways flight to Pisa which should have left at 9.30am took off at 11.48am. The 4.25pm British Island Airways flight to Venice left at 5.55pm, and a Monarch Airways flight to Las Palmas was two-and-a-half hours late when it finally departed at 8.10pm.

At Birmingham, an Adria Airways flight from Pula expected to leave at 11.15am was delayed until 3pm, and an Air Yugoslav flight from Dubrovnik arrived one-and-a-half hours late at 12.04pm.

By the way, the Times overseas edition is published in the USA at \$5.00, Canada \$6.00, Australia \$7.00, New Zealand \$8.00, South Africa \$9.00, India \$10.00, Japan \$12.00, Hong Kong \$15.00, Singapore \$18.00, Malaysia \$20.00, Thailand \$22.00, Philippines \$25.00, Indonesia \$28.00, Taiwan \$30.00, South Korea \$32.00, Hong Kong \$35.00, Singapore \$38.00, Malaysia \$40.00, Thailand \$42.00, Philippines \$45.00, Indonesia \$48.00, Taiwan \$50.00, South Korea \$52.00, Hong Kong \$55.00, Singapore \$58.00, Malaysia \$60.00, Thailand \$62.00, Philippines \$65.00, Indonesia \$68.00, Taiwan \$70.00, South Korea \$72.00, Hong Kong \$75.00, Singapore \$78.00, Malaysia \$80.00, Thailand \$82.00, Philippines \$85.00, Indonesia \$88.00, Taiwan \$90.00, South Korea \$92.00, Hong Kong \$95.00, Singapore \$98.00, Malaysia \$100.00, Thailand \$102.00, Philippines \$105.00, Indonesia \$108.00, Taiwan \$110.00, South Korea \$112.00, Hong Kong \$115.00, Singapore \$118.00, Malaysia \$120.00, 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Soaring house prices 'holding back firms in the South-east'

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Rocketing house prices and the lack of rented accommodation in London and the South-east is retarding the growth of companies, according to a Confederation of British Industry survey.

Many firms are spending huge sums to attract workers from regions where housing is much cheaper.

Mr Brian Street, chairman of the CBI's south-east regional council, said that the soaring property prices and shortage of rented premises interfered with staff recruitment and retention.

More than 200 firms in the South-east took part in the survey, and an overwhelming majority said that those two problems were affecting their expansion plans. "This means the competitiveness of British industry is being hampered", Mr Street said.

"Companies report difficulties in transferring all types of employees to the area, though particular problems are associated with scientific, technical, managerial and skilled manual staff."

"The problems are not confined to small or large firms, or to any particular industry. They are evident right across the board."

A big Kent firm told the CBI that because of the high cost of housing, personnel who had come down from the North after being made redundant had invariably been forced home to rejoin the dole queues - in spite of the incentives. A large Surrey firm

told the researchers: "It is practically impossible to attract engineers to the South-east from other parts of the country."

With the boom set to continue, a large firm in Brighton, East Sussex, reported: "Perhaps the true cost is the unknown factor of those who do not apply for jobs in the first place."

The survey showed that one in ten companies are spending more than £100,000 a year in housing expenses to attract and keep staff in the South-east.

Nearly 60 per cent of the companies that took part in the survey said they paid between £1,000 and £50,000 a year in similar costs.

About 80 per cent of the firms said they were offering housing subsidies or other incentives to potential recruits even though it cost them considerable amounts of money.

The CBI is hoping to organize a meeting of planners in Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex, at which the confederation will emphasize the seriousness of the position and discuss a number of possible solutions.

Many firms in the area believe there is no alternative to the release of more land for housing, if the productive effort of local companies is not to be constrained.

Ninety-six per cent of firms in the CBI survey said the housing market was a problem. The most serious aspect

was the lack of rented accommodation.

For 61 per cent of those questioned it was a "major" problem, with 73 per cent saying that such difficulties were, to some extent, affecting their plans for expansion. Firms surveyed said scientific and technical staff accounted for 51 per cent of those transferred to or recruited in the South-east, while 29 per cent were managerial.

While the smaller firms said their problem was in recruiting managerial staff, the larger firms complained that their difficulties were in attracting scientific and technical staff.

The survey showed that the larger firms offered more incentives to existing and prospective staff, though spending per person worked out higher for smaller firms.

Few firms were offering company housing, though more were considering this as "an expensive but necessary solution."

The CBI says there is no easing of the problem in sight. It was likely to worsen, with 35 per cent of firms surveyed expecting to recruit or transfer more staff into the South-east over the next two years, reflecting the buoyant conditions in the region.

Next month the CBI is holding a conference for firms who are struggling with the housing market.

The conference will explore the options open to companies to help them solve their recruitment difficulties.

Speeding guidelines

Verbal warning at 85mph

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

New guidelines issued to chief constables over the prosecution of motorists for speeding were criticized yesterday for being too lenient.

The guidelines, which are only advisory, have been issued by the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers. They suggest that on motorways, provided a vehicle is being driven responsibly and conditions are good, people driving at up to 85 mph (15 mph above the legal maximum) should only receive a verbal warning.

At speeds of 85 mph to 95 mph, a ticket for a fixed penalty of £24 should be

issued and, above 95 mph, prosecution should be considered. It was being emphasized yesterday that the guidelines are discretionary and dependent on the driving conditions and the way in which a vehicle was being driven.

On roads with lower speed limits, such as 60 mph, it is suggested that verbal warnings should be given for speeds up to 10 mph above the legal limit, fixed penalties for those exceeding the limit by 11-25 mph, and a summons issued above that level.

Mrs Jeanne Breen of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety,

said that 85 mph seemed too high a speed for verbal warnings. It was possible that the guidelines reflected the fact that police resources on motorways were too scant and it called for more use of speed cameras on motorways.

The Automobile Association said for some years there had been a margin of tolerance in the enforcement of the law, and the association's guidelines appeared to be an attempt to codify that practice to achieve national uniformity. But the AA said they were only guidelines and that people driving above the legal limit could face prosecution.

Tributes amid grief and anger



The coffin of Lance Corporal Michael Robbins is carried from the chapel yesterday (Photographs: Denzil McNeelance).

By Edward Gorman

The first British Serviceman killed in England by the IRA since 1982 was a "very good soldier" and "a most popular character who joined in everything", his commanding officer said yesterday.

Colonel Peter Wescott of the Royal Engineers paid tribute to Lance Corporal Michael Robbins, aged 23, at a full military service held in the chapel of Inglis Barracks in Mill Hill, north-west London, yards from where the soldier died 10 days ago.

As the service took place amid high security a bishop said at a Belfast funeral for a murdered Roman Catholic that every one that faith in Northern Ireland was a potential target for Protestant paramilitary killers.

Dr Cahal Daly, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, added: "It is a matter of great urgency that better protection be provided by the security authorities for exposed Catholic enclaves".

Lance Corporal Robbins, from Liphook, Hampshire, was killed under tons of rubble when a bomb planted by the IRA exploded as he slept. Six of the nine other servicemen injured in the blast attended the funeral, including two still being treated in hospital.

Colonel Wescott made no attempt to conceal his anger and disgust at what he described as the deliberate murder of the lance corporal.



Sapper Kevin Burden (right) injured in the bombing, leaving after the funeral service.

He said: "Mickey Robbins was a soldier doing a peace-time job in a free society in his native land - a land which is at peace with every country in the world."

"To honour his memory we must all resolve that we will never allow such evil to deflect us from pursuing the decent, caring and upright way of life which Mickey personified."

The service was attended by 200 men and women of the Army Postal and Courier Service of which Corporal Robbins was a member, and 30 family mourners led by his mother, Mrs Cindy Lock, and

his stepfather, Mr Robin Lock.

The hearse was draped in the Union flag with his cap on top. His family walked behind as it passed the spot where the bomb exploded.

His mother was praised yesterday by a senior Army officer for the courage she had shown since the bombing. He disclosed she had spent three days comforting the injured in hospital and helping others caught up in the blast.

After the service the coffin was taken under police escort to St Mary The Virgin Church,

Bramshott, where a private service for family and friends was held.

He was buried in a corner of the graveyard dedicated to the memory of 300 Canadian Servicemen and one young Royal Engineers soldier killed in the Second World War.

Villagers from Liphook filled the tiny church for the service conducted by the Rev Patricia Masterman, a deaconess who is the chaplain's assistant at the barracks.

She described the lance corporal as someone with a great sense of fun, a real love for life and care for people.

Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator Cash goes on holiday

Mrs Christine Robinson, from Sheffield, South Yorkshire, could not believe it when she heard she was the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio prize of £4000.

"I haven't taken it in yet", she said. "Even when I rang in to claim, it did not seem real." Mrs Robinson, aged 38, a part-time infant teacher, said she would wait until her husband was sitting down before she told him the good news. "He probably won't believe it either", she said.

She is planning to put her win towards a family holiday to France in September. "The children have never been abroad before, so it will be nice for them", she said.

Mrs Robinson plays Portfolio regularly and has been reading The Times since she changed from The Guardian more than five years ago.

Theft charge

Nicholas Mason, aged 27, of Clapham, south-west London, was accused yesterday of stealing £19,196 from a Civil Service riding club that used Buckingham Palace stables. He was remanded on bail by Horseferry Road Magistrates.

Phone guard

Guards on late-night weekend trains from London to Dover are to be issued with radio-telephones to combat increasing violence. British Rail agreed the move yesterday after a 24-hour unofficial strike by 46 guards at Dover after an attack on a colleague.

Sex charges

Mr John Cunniff, aged 34, of Bristol, who is accused of murdering Mrs Shirley Banks, faced six further charges yesterday involving alleged sexual assaults.

MPs' posts

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, yesterday appointed Mr Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk, South, as his parliamentary private secretary. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, has appointed Mr John Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West.

Fatal crash

A man, a woman and a boy aged 14 died yesterday when their car collided with a double-decker bus between Rathin and Mold on the A494 in north Wales. The victims have not yet been identified. Another teenage boy was also seriously injured.

Local flavour goes in fast food age

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Long established regional food preferences are gradually disappearing as a result of the ever-growing dominance of the big supermarket chains.

As we move towards the twenty-first century, we are not only eating better than ever before, and in many cases too well, but we are increasingly eating the same things.

An analysis by the Press Association of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food statistics for the past 50 years show that the first convenience foods started to appear on shop shelves in about 1960, but for most people they were an expensive luxury.

Frozen fish fingers at 4s (20p) a pound were only slightly cheaper than beef at 4s 2d a lb and more expensive than chicken at 3s 11d a lb.

In 1956, only 8 per cent of homes had a refrigerator, and as recently as 1970 only 4 per cent had a freezer. By 1980, these figures had risen to 96 per cent and 46 per cent respectively.

The analysis revealed that spending on food as a proportion of income has steadily declined.

In 1950, a quarter of all households had an income of less than £4.50 a week, and only 3 per cent had more than

£13, while the average food bill was 14s 10d (74p) compared with 9s 8d (48p) in 1940.

By 1970 the bill had risen to £8.44 a week, but represented only 23 per cent of average income, and convenience foods accounted for a quarter.

Between 1975 and 1980 spending had risen to £28.84, as a result of rising inflation, but was less than 20 per cent of total expenditure. In that year, although the number called out will depend on what happens during the event.

By 1986, the average food bill had risen to £40.36 but was less than 14 per cent of disposable income. The average person ate more than three meals a week outside the home.

The survey shows that although diseases such as rickets and scurvy, which were common before the Second World War, have almost disappeared, Britons are suffering more from overeating and dietary imbalance.

In spite of persistent warnings, the percentage of fat in the national diet has continued to increase, constituting 42.6 per cent of total energy intake, well above the official guideline of 35 per cent, last achieved in 1952.

Food prices, page 5

Carnival will have 1,500 extra police

By Edward Gorman

The police are to draft in more officers than ever for this year's Notting Hill Carnival in west London, as repeated requests from carnival organizers for stewards have met with no response. Now, the police say, even if the stewards are forthcoming, it is too late to train them.

There will be 9,922 officers available for duty over the two-day free festival this year, including the additional officers. That is 1,500 more than last year, although the number called out will depend on what happens during the event.

With the carnival just over weeks away and expected to attract more than one and a half million people, the police have taken the decision despite accusations by the organizers that they are trying to take over the running of the event.

The police say that repeated requests from carnival organizers for the stewards - considered vital for public safety at the carnival and whose appointment was agreed last March - have been fruitless and that it would take at least two months to train them.

"It's what isn't happening that is worrying us", a police spokesman said last night. "The first meeting between

police and the chief of stewards is scheduled for today, but that only leaves us 16 days - it is unsatisfactory."

Police concern has increased since fears were expressed by the emergency services last year when there were more than a thousand serious crimes at the carnival. They included the first murder in the 22-year history of the event, and the death of a man after ambulances failed to reach him through crowds.

Privately, the police admit the decision to draft in extra force also reflects mounting dissatisfaction with carnival organizers, the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee, which is facing growing criticism not only from police, but also from its own members.

The committee's seven-member board faces the prospect of being dismissed by its own 200-strong membership after a vote of no confidence at a stormy meeting in Notting Hill on Wednesday night.

The committee, led by Mr Alex Pascall, chairman and Mr Victor Crichtlow, treasurer, has refused to accept the vote. However, disaffected members said they believed the board to be "finished" and will be voted out at an annual general meeting after this year's carnival.

Royal relative in a Manchester semi

By Ruth Gledhill

A relative of the Queen is living in obscurity in a three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Manchester, it was claimed by Burke's Peerage yesterday.

The engineer, who is in his late 40s, is married with children and has asked not to be named, is directly descended from the 13th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, grandfather of the Queen Mother.

He is a member of the Bowes-Lyon family and is second cousin, once removed, to the Queen and third cousin to the Prince of Wales.

His existence, the result of an illicit affair, has remained a closely guarded secret. Had it

been known, he might have inherited a Bowes-Lyon mansion, Ridley Hall, at Bardou Mill, Northumberland, now a public school.

The engineer's grandfather, Charles Lindsay Claude Bowes-Lyon, had a passionate love affair with a member of his mother's household, described as a "lady-in-waiting".

Charles Bowes-Lyon was the eldest son of Francis Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's uncle and second son of the 13th earl.

The liaison resulted in his only child, a son - also called Charles - the father of the engineer. Charles Bowes-Lyon, a lieutenant in the Black

Watch, was killed at Ypres in October 1914, when his son was five years old.

The boy joined a public school in the north Midlands as a boarder, the fees paid by his grandfather, Mr Francis Bowes-Lyon.

The only other member of the family believed to have known of his existence was his father's younger sister, Winifred, who died childless.

He lived with an aunt until he was 10 when his mother married and he joined her.

He married and had a son, who was told about his family origins when he was 21.

Mr Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, said: "Great aristocratic families have always had a tradition of accepting illegitimacy in an understanding and Christian way and this is a case in point."

He said that the engineer approached Burke's seeking recognition of his position as a member of the Bowes-Lyon family after hearing that they proposed recording illegitimate offspring of noble and royal families.

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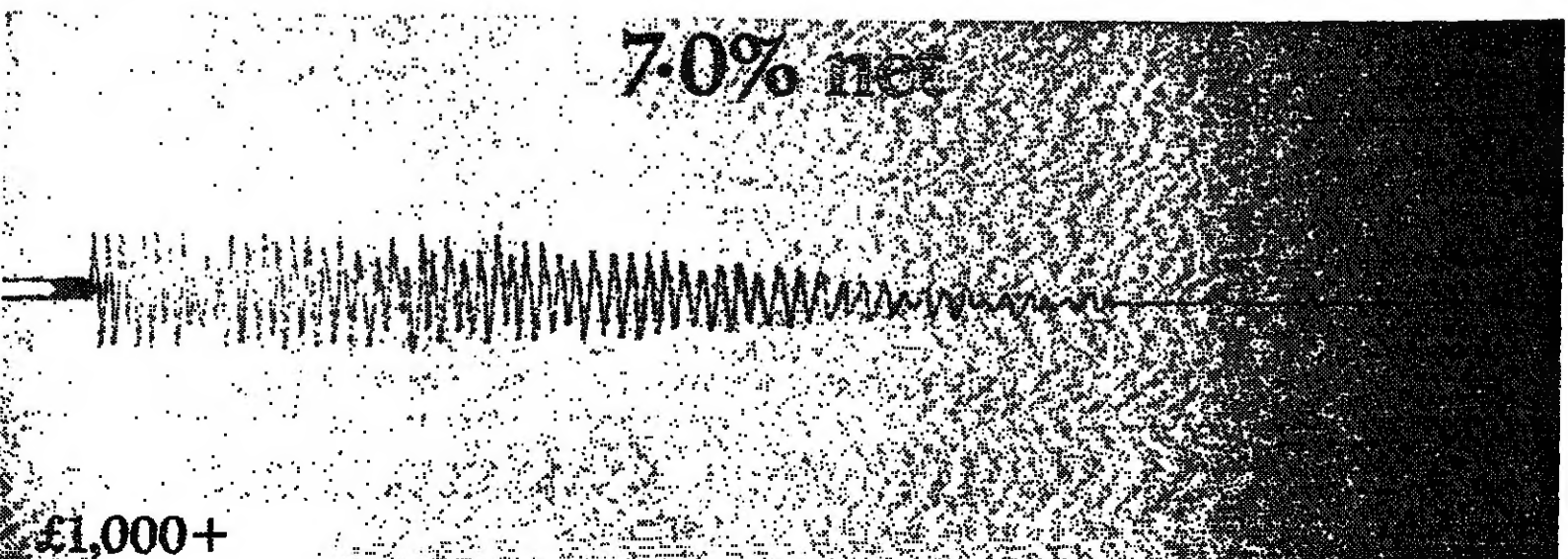
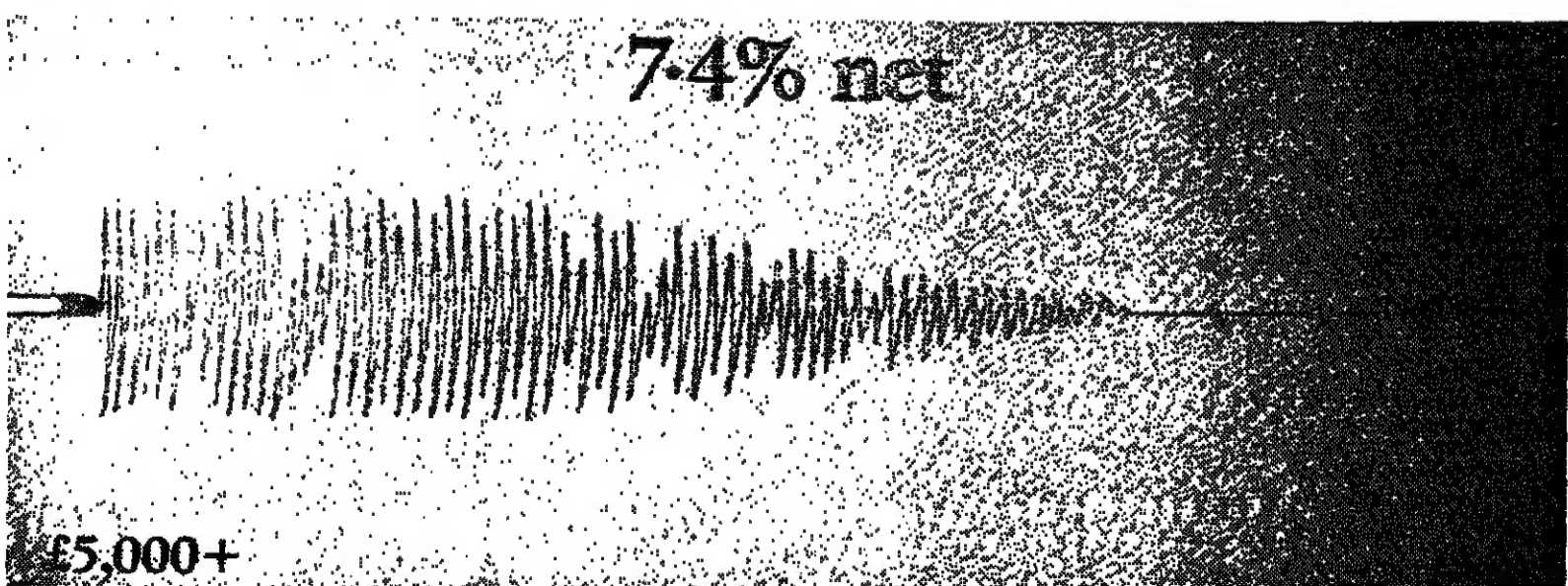
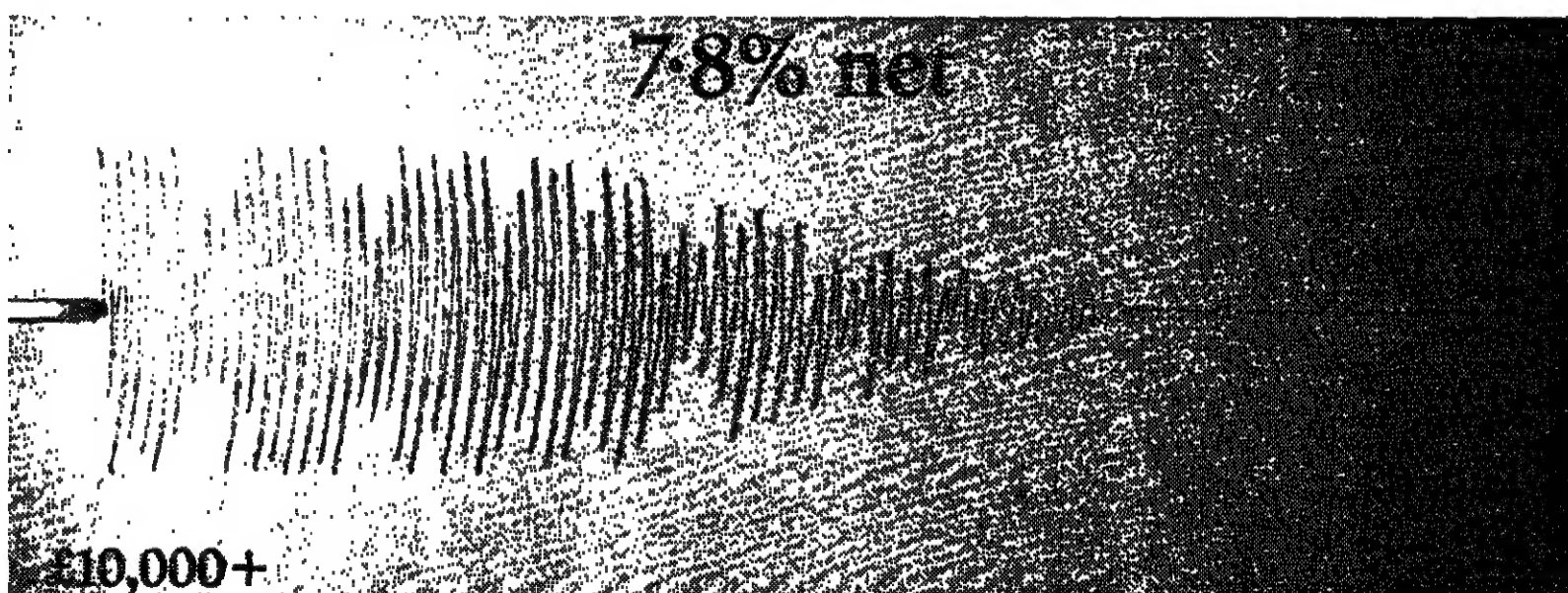
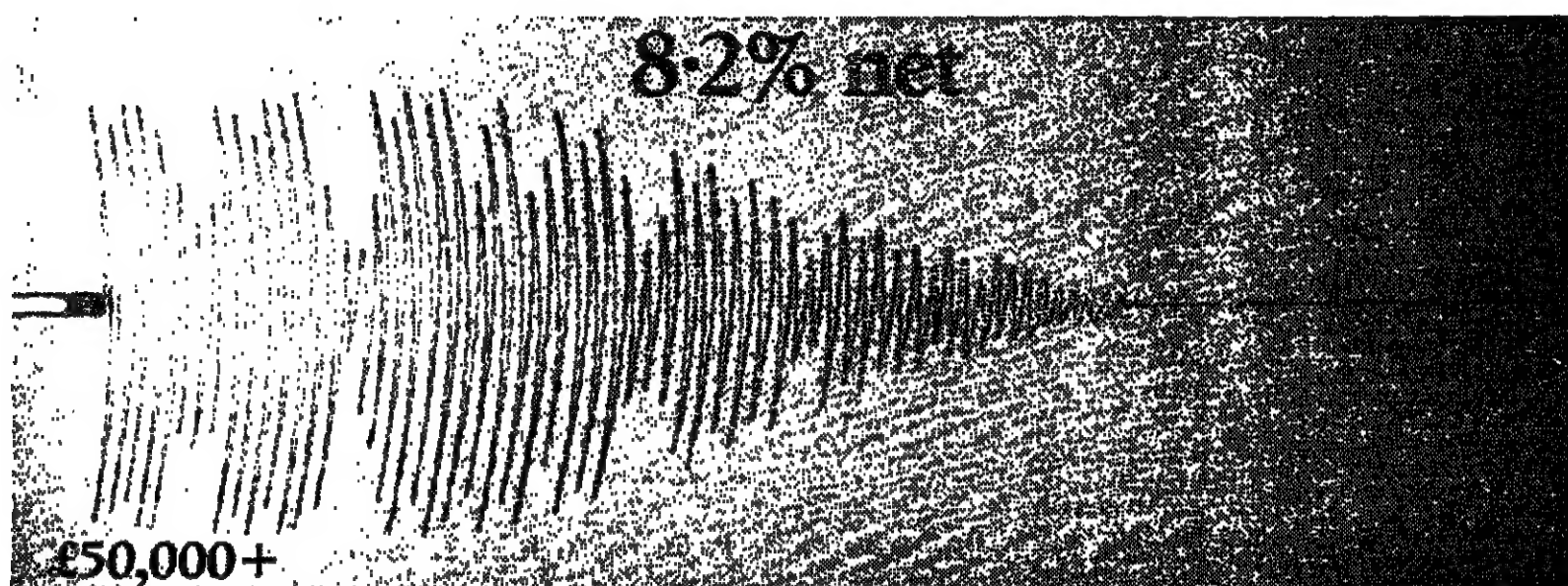


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Worldwide survey backs aspirin's role in saving thousands

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Tens of thousands of deaths from heart attacks can be prevented each year by the use of aspirin and a clot-dissolving drug, an international team of researchers said yesterday.

Aspirin and streptokinase could save 5,000 lives a year in Britain, at low cost and with few side-effects, the study, published in *The Lancet*, says.

In North America, 25,000 lives a year could be saved, and 20,000 in Russia and Eastern Europe.

The four-year study, called ISIS-2, involved 17,187 patients with suspected heart attacks in 417 hospitals throughout Europe, North America and Australasia. It was the world's biggest into the emergency treatment of heart diseases, and the authors say, its findings represent the biggest advance in the subject for 25 years.

The study "demonstrates conclusively that the two drugs each reduce the risk of death, and when used in combination, halve the number of people who die in the first month after a heart attack."

Professor Peter Sleight, of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, chairman of the research team, said yesterday: "These results will change medical practice worldwide. Widespread adoption by doctors of these simple treatments will save tens of thousands of

lives each year."

Professor Desmond Julian, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, which helped fund the study, said: "This is the most significant advance since the introduction of cardiac resuscitation 25 years ago. The results are very convincing."

The study statistician, Mr Richard Pea, of Oxford University, said: "The findings have important implications for cardiologists, for general practitioners and above all, for many millions of future heart attack sufferers."

Heart attacks usually occur when blood clots form in coronary arteries, blocking the flow of blood to the heart. Streptokinase, injected intravenously, triggers the body's own clot-dissolving mechanism, restoring blood flow.

Treatment is most effective when given within four hours of the attack. But even 12 to 24 hours later, it can be beneficial.

"This finding is of particular importance since many patients do not seek medical attention for several hours," Professor Sleight said.

Aspirin probably makes certain blood cells less "sticky", thus reducing the risk of blood clots forming, according to the research.

Dr Rory Collins, of the Radcliffe Infirmary, who co-ordinated the study, said: "Although streptokinase alone

and aspirin alone each reduced the risk of death, the combination of the two was most effective at saving lives."

Of every 1,000 people reaching hospital with a heart attack and receiving this combination treatment, about 50 lives would be saved, he said. More would be saved if low-dose aspirin were continued for a few months or years after hospital discharge to protect against a further heart attack.

More than 100,000 heart attack patients are admitted to British hospitals each year.

Professor Julian said that because the benefits of the treatment were greatest at an early stage, it was crucial to reduce delays.

"Patients should seek medical attention as soon as possible. Delays in admission to hospital must be avoided and prompt therapy of this kind should be considered routinely in all hospitals dealing with acute heart attacks."

The researchers said the side-effects of low doses of aspirin were so minimal, and the drug costs so small, that it was likely to be applicable to almost all patients with suspected heart attacks.

Streptokinase was described as "remarkably safe", but could cause allergic reactions or a drop in blood pressure. However, those side-effects could be managed easily if treated promptly.

Vitamin claims challenged

By Our Science Correspondent

A drug company which claims its vitamin tablets can improve children's intelligence is drawing increasing criticism from medical experts for the ways it is promoting the product.

Last year the company, Larkhall Laboratories, of Putney, south-west London, supplied tablets for a trial among Welsh schoolchildren. The results, published in *The Lancet*, suggested that there was an increase in non-verbal intelligence among pupils who took them.

The trial at Darland High School, Rossett, near Wrexham, Chwyd, was devised by Mr Gwilym Roberts, head of the science department. His aim was to investigate the possibility that deficiency of dietary vitamins and minerals could prevent optimum psychological function.

He has since resigned from his post and is to receive £1,000 a month in sponsorship from the company to give talks to parents and schools based on his book, *Boost Your Child's Brain Power*, which is published next Thursday at £3.99 by Thorsons, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

The company is continuing to market an "IQ pack" of vitamins and minerals with a reference to the trial on the packaging. The small print says that the letters IQ stand



30 Vitamin C and 30 Multivitamin and Mineral tablets. The Larkhall vitamin pack, referring to the school trial.

for "ideal quota" of vitamins and minerals.

Last week, doctors at the Food and Nutritional Sciences department of King's College, London, published in *The Lancet* their results of a similar trial among schoolchildren.

They concluded: "It is clear from this carefully executed study that no improvement in intellectual performance can be expected."

Professor Donald Naismith and colleagues divided 154 London secondary school pupils into two groups, one of which received vitamin supplements while the other was given a placebo.

All the children were given intelligence tests before and after the four-week experiment. "There were no differences in performance

between the two groups", the researchers reported.

Dr Michael Nelson, one of the researchers, said later that he felt Mr Roberts's book and lecture tour were "playing on the vulnerability of a relatively ignorant public" and might mislead many parents.

Earlier this year, other researchers and specialists wrote to *The Lancet* to challenge or criticize the original study.

Yesterday Dr Robert Woodward, medical director of Larkhall Laboratories, said: "We stand firmly by our own results. The latest study is just a joke."

"It isn't real evidence. The researchers didn't use our product so it isn't surprising that they got different results. We are planning bigger trials in an effort to replicate our original findings and I am confident that they will vindicate us."

Mr Roberts said: "I've always been interested in the possible links between nutrition and behaviour and I think many of society's problems are related to poor diet. I believe that if we can enrich children's diet it may be possible to improve their brain function."

"The trial at my school produced amazing changes. We didn't try to explain the mechanism because we simply don't know how the brain works."

Weekend food prices

Bargains tempt shoppers to barbecue

Food prices have a way of creeping up at this time of year when holiday shoppers are more interested in stocking the larder than comparing prices.

Eggs, meat and poultry are all more expensive than a few weeks ago. In the South-east, the most expensive area, sirloin steak and boneless sirloin is up 10p a lb on the average price, now £3.67 and £4.33 a lb respectively. In the rest of the country these cuts are up between 3p and 4p a lb, with rump and fillet steaks up 3p-7p a lb. Topside and silverside should be slightly cheaper this week.

Lamb prices fluctuate more than any other meat, with the average price up 4p a lb. However, there are a couple of excellent offers available. Asda is selling whole and half legs at £1.49 a lb, and Safeway whole legs at £1.69. The focus of special offers is on food for the barbecue which can be grilled or oven cooked if the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Many lovely bottled sauces are also now available for the barbecue cooks.

Spare ribs at Tesco cost 89p a lb and 99p at Safeway, but Chinese flavoured chops are £1.42. Boneless loin chops at Sainsbury are down from £2.08 a lb to £1.68, while boneless pork steaks at Dewhurst cost £1.79. Boneless shoulder pork, which can be cut into cubes to make home-made kebabs, is down to 92p a lb at Sainsbury.

Other good offers are at Asda where fresh basted chickens are 55p a lb and whole shoulder of New Zealand lamb 55p a lb; at Tesco, where fresh chicken quarters are 85p a lb, and fresh barbecued chicken thighs and drumsticks 99p a lb; at Sainsbury, where fresh minced beef is 98p, and boneless shoulder of pork 92p; at Safeway, where a 3 lb pack of frozen chicken breasts is down 96p to £2.99; at Presto, where boneless pork chops are £1.98 a lb, and

pork spare ribs 99p; and at Bejam, which has minced beef at 75p a lb, with a 5 lb bag of chicken portions costing £2.79.

Fresh fish prices have begun to drift downwards as the weather has been kind to fishermen. Whiting and haddock is a little short but there is plenty of cod and cod, with abundant supplies of herrings at 93p a lb. Mackerel, at £1.10, is dear.

Make the most of home-grown soft fruits as their season is nearly over. Raspberries, at between 50p and 70p a quarter pound, strawberries at 40p-75p a half, Levelev gooseberries at 50p-80p a lb, and blueberries at 75p-£1 a half pound are still available.

New season English Discovery apples are now in the shops at 35p-60p a lb and there good supplies of apples from Australia, South Africa, France and New Zealand, at between 30p and 50p a lb. Bananas are from 30p to 50 a lb.

A sparkling day for Britain's best boss



Miss Annie Knackstedt pours her winning boss, Miss Anne Hawkins, a glass of champagne in celebration yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The head of the British Tourist Authority's Far East department won the first national Boss of the Year competition yesterday after her secretary applauded her "approachability" in a glowing 250-word nominating statement.

Sixty-seven men and 23 women

were originally nominated, then reduced to a shortlist of three men and three women in London yesterday. After hours of interviews, the judges decided that Miss Anne Hawkins, aged 38, was the winner.

Miss Eleanor MacDonald, president of Women in Management, who acted as chief judge, said Miss Hawkins had all the attributes needed

in a good boss: a person prepared to listen to her staff; a good communicator; impeccable manners; professional in dealing with clients; able to delegate; a keen motivator; able to get the best out of a team; and cheerful.

To enter the competition, bosses had to be nominated by their secretaries. Yesterday, Miss Hawkins's secretary, Miss Annie Knackstedt,

said "approachability" was the outstanding quality of her boss.

Both boss and secretary share prizes of more than £600 worth of clothing in the competition organized by a secretarial magazine, plus items ranging from an electronic typewriter and theatre gift tokens (for the secretary) to a set of luggage and a year's supply of flowers (for the boss).

Quality versus quantity survey

Consumers' demands lift UK product standard

By Roland Rudd

The quality of work by employees of British companies is improving and the importance placed on quality over quantity is increasing, according to a report published yesterday by International Survey Research.

The new quality principle is not only improving the production of British goods but is also improving the attention to quality of personnel, performance, operating efficiency, management effectiveness and working conditions.

Employee morale has improved, leading to a more committed and motivated workforce, the research com-

pany reports.

In 1983, two in three British employees (67 per cent) thought that the quality of work in their department was excellent.

Five years later the proportion increased significantly to three in four (74 per cent) and now almost matches the equivalent figure for German employees (75 per cent).

Similarly, in 1983, 54 per cent of British employees felt that too much emphasis was placed on quantity rather than quality of work produced, but in 1988 the figure dropped to a significantly more positive 45 per cent.

Mr Roger Maitland, the

company's managing director, yesterday said the report suggested that in the last five years British companies have woken up to the importance of quality.

"The economic boom in Germany in the last few years has allowed the German consumer the luxury of demanding quality over quantity or low price; companies responded. Now, in the financially more prosperous late-80s, the same thing appears to be happening here in Britain."

The report shows that significant resources are now being devoted to quality training and the establishment of quality improvement teams

and many of the report's findings were confirmed by leading industrialists.

Mr Arnold Bolton, manager of corporate affairs at Jaguar, said it was the company's concentration on quality which contributed to the high morale of the workforce.

"A strong emphasis on quality increases the morale of employees who take pride in their job and offer constructive comments on how to improve our cars."

When ISR looked separately at the findings this year for those companies which operate an internal quality programme, the figures were even more telling: eight in 10

of these employees (79 per cent) say their work quality is excellent and only 36 per cent feel that quality takes second place to quantity.

Mr Maitland said: "In an increasingly competitive world, it clearly makes sense for British companies to learn whatever they can from their successful European rivals, and many are already seeing the fruits of their quality initiatives, which may give them a competitive edge into the 1990s."

Quality: The Competitive Advantage of the 1990s (International Survey Research Ltd, 11-12 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LE).

Parents 'denied legal aid' in schooling appeals

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Legal aid is being refused to parents seeking to challenge decisions of local authorities or the state on the educational needs of their children, a barrister said yesterday.

Mr John Friel, who handles a number of such cases for parents of children who are mentally or physically handi-

capped or both, said there appears to be a trend to deny legal aid.

In a recent case, aid was refused to the parents of a quadriplegic child who had special educational needs, and who were seeking a local authority recommendation for the child to be sent to a special school.

They had no private means and money was eventually

raised by a Jewish charity. The case succeeded. "The judge, Mr Justice McCowan, said that the case was fit for legal aid," Mr Friel said. "It was both difficult and sad, but aid was refused."

Mr Friel cited a second case in which a child with special educational needs was refused legal aid to go to the Court of Appeal in an education case by the same legal aid

committee. "Again help was obtained from another source and the case proceeded successfully to the Court of Appeal."

His concern coincides with legal proceedings which have just been launched against the Law Society, at present in charge of the legal aid scheme, over refusing emergency legal aid to a mother whose child was being held by

the father, Mrs Melanie Craig, a Leeds solicitor, has won leave to bring judicial review proceedings against the Law Society over the decision.

Yesterday Mr Christopher Snowling, director of the legal aid scheme said: "I am absolutely certain that these types of case are dealt with exactly the same as any other and that the same criteria are used."

Seismic station will monitor bomb blasts

UK scientists to test device in Russia

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Two British scientists leave for the Soviet Union today to install a seismic station for monitoring Russian nuclear tests. It will be the only site operated by foreigners.

Dr Jonathan Doody, from Glasgow University, and Mr Paul Coward, from Leicester University, are the first of a rota of scientists who will each man the installation for a month under an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the recently formed British Seismic Verification Research Project.

They will be experimenting with a new seismic instrument designed to distinguish underground testing of low-level nuclear devices, equivalent to less than 1,000 tons of TNT.

The scientists will be staying at the Soviet Institute of Geophysics, at Garm,

in Tadzhikistan, 1,000 km south of the Soviet nuclear weapons test site at Semipalatinsk. Their equipment will be placed in a vault carved from the rock of a hillside near the institute.

The verification research project was established last year by a group of independent scientists from most of the leading university departments in geology and seismology. They reject the view of the United States and British governments that it is not possible technically to verify low-level tests.

They say that with recent advances in seismology, it is possible to detect explosions lower than one kilometre.

Dr Frank Barnaby, one of the project's founders, said the controversy was a stumbling block to a comprehensive test ban treaty between the superpowers.

Because of verification difficulties,

government negotiators believe it would be unwise to agree to ban tests below the equivalent of 10,000 tons of TNT.

The independent researchers have raised £27,000 from private grants - largely from the Rowntree, Higginbottom and Cadbury trusts - to build their instruments and meet the cost of travelling to Russia to test them.

Dr Barnaby said a total of £50,000 would be needed to complete the analysis of data brought back to Britain. Computer tapes of the seismic recordings would be given to the Russian institute.

The scientists are anxious to install their equipment in the next week, before the US and the Soviet Union begin the first of two agreed nuclear tests to calibrate instruments for monitoring large devices of more than 10,000 tons.

Far from rosy in the garden

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

The concept of an Englishman's home being his castle does not extend to his garden or the money he spends on it, according to a new survey.

The reason for this lack of interest, in spite of the boom in property prices, higher disposable incomes and the increase in the DIY trend, is that many people do not like gardening.

In the survey, produced by Mintel, in which 932 adults with a garden were questioned, about a fifth said they hated or disliked working in their garden and another 19 per cent said they regarded the work as a chore. Only 24 per cent said they enjoyed it.

The number of people who dislike the activity increases to 55 per cent among the lower

social classes who have smaller gardens, according to Mintel. Only 11 per cent of those who have large gardens said they disliked working in them; they tend to be older and more affluent.

The reason gardening continues to be the poor relation in terms of household expenditure stems from the image of the "negative gardener", and from an obscure lack of interest in protecting investment in a house by caring for the garden.

In addition, people aged under 45, who have seen the biggest rise in disposable income, are those most reluctant to spend money on what they regard as a chore.

More money is spent each year in off-licences, hairdressers and on cigarettes, than on

the garden. That is despite annual sales of £1.25 billion in garden centres and DIY shops.

The most common reason for avoiding work in the garden is a shortage of time, with slightly fewer people claiming they just were not interested. Some respondents blamed their apathy on the climate and others said the garden was too big for them.

"The long-term worry for gardening product suppliers is whether the younger hatters will gradually warm to the pleasures of gardening and mature into positive gardeners. There is a very real danger that only a small proportion will do so", Mintel says.

The Gardener (Mintel, Kae House, 7 Arundel Street, London, WC2R 3DR; £5.50).

Cable cars could scale the Stirling Castle cliff

By Kerry Gill

Stirling Castle, one of Britain's most outstanding scenic attractions, is under siege again. This time it is not the English hordes, but a firm of developers armed with ambitious plans to regenerate the Old Town's tourism prospects.

Clustered round the twelfth century castle, Stirling's Old Town is perched on several hundred feet of volcanic rock, a warren of quaint old houses, narrow cobbled streets, with attractions ranging from the former military prison to the dilapidated MaryKirk.

Now, the L and R Leisure Group, which operates in Edinburgh and London, wants to turn the Old Town into a heritage park, aimed at increasing the number of tourists from 300,000 to a million a year.



Stirling Castle, which might be reached by a funicular railway.

Most people ranged on either side of the developmental battlelines agree that the Old Town needs extensive improvement and that Stirling is not making enough of its tourism potential. What has stirred many local people to take up arms, however, is a

proposal to place two funicular railways up the side of the cliffs, leading from a small station and car park below.

Mrs Norma Atkinson, a member of the Castle Rock Action Group, Stirling, believes the plan would ruin one of the most spectacular historic views in Scotland. "It would be a major upheaval of the area just to put in the funiculars not to mention it becoming an awful eyesore," she said yesterday. "We feel that if this plan is allowed to go ahead, one of the most outstanding views of attractive, natural landscape in Scotland will be spoiled."

L and R have come up with the idea of two funicular railways, one from the Haining Field below the castle up to the fortress and former Royal residence itself, and the other winding down from the

old military prison and back to Haining Field.

"We believe that an old fashioned, Victorian-style funicular railway would be the most appropriate method of taking tourists up to the Old Town, and would be perfectly in keeping", Mr Hobbs said.

The company has said it will invest £3 million in the scheme as long as a similar amount is put up by the Scottish Development Agency and the Scottish Tourist Board. Mr Hobbs said the Historic Buildings and Monuments division of the Scottish Development Department was broadly in favour of the general concept. So is the local authority, Stirling District Council, although it is awaiting a planning application from L and R. The council sees the car park at the bottom of the cliff side as a major obstacle.

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Bush steps up effort to win over the black vote

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Vice-President George Bush yesterday announced the setting up of an organization called National Black Americans for Bush to try to woo black voters who are expected overwhelmingly to vote Democrat.

The new group includes about 100 prominent black Republicans and those now holding office who will try to amplify their tiny presence within the Republican Party. Blacks hold the crucial balance of power in many states, especially in the South, and the Bush campaign is now making an all-out effort to win over as many black voters, as well as Hispanics, as possible.

Meanwhile, in New Orleans a

group of black Republicans strongly criticized the way the party treated them, saying they felt alienated and ignored by the party leadership.

Spokesmen for Freedom Republicans, a 1,500-strong organization of mainly black party members in New York, urged the Republicans to revamp the convention delegate rules in 1992 to give blacks a better statistical chance of getting in the party hierarchy. But the Republican national committee, with only a few dissenters, rejected the proposal by a voice vote.

This prompted bitterness among black speakers. "Blacks, alone among the demographic groups of the country, are written off" by the party, one member told the all-

white party leadership on the dais. Blacks alone did not have the advantage of a two-party system, and outdated, narrow procedures were making minorities feel "isolated, unwelcome and unequal".

Two blacks now hold senior positions in the Reagan Administration; Mr Samuel Pierce, the low-key Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and General Colin Powell, the widely respected National Security Adviser. Some black columnists and other political observers have urged Mr Bush to select General Powell as his vice-presidential running mate, though the likelihood of that happening is slender.

Meanwhile, Mr Bush was working on his acceptance speech which

he will deliver on Thursday night. Yesterday he and his wife lunched privately with President and Mrs Reagan. They were expected to discuss Mr Reagan's role in helping the party nominee.

The President will address the New Orleans convention on Tuesday, before Mr Bush arrives. They had planned not to overlap to prevent Mr Reagan overshadowing Mr Bush. But they now plan to meet at New Orleans airport for a brief discussion before Mr Reagan flies off for a holiday at his California ranch.

Meanwhile, the Rev Jesse Jackson, clearly straining at the uneasy truce that he has made with Governor Michael Dukakis, has criticized the Democratic nominee

for not speaking out more on civil rights. He said Mr Dukakis missed an opportunity last week by not saying more about the issue in a campaign appearance in Mississippi at a town where three civil rights workers were killed in 1964, two Jews and one black.

"It could have sent a profound message to blacks and Jews, and maybe even a wreath should be laid," Mr Jackson said at a press conference in Washington. But he said Mr Dukakis had expressed a clear overall commitment to civil rights, and he did not want to judge him harshly on one incident.

Mr Dukakis yesterday turned to defence and foreign affairs, saying that the US needed a "real leader" to make policy based on "tough

management, not wishful thinking and blank cheques".

In a speech notable for his praise of President Reagan's foreign policy and a clear attempt to demonstrate his own toughness in negotiating with Moscow, Mr Dukakis said at New York University that he would not tolerate waste in the Pentagon, and would "clean up the mess" in military procurement.

He added: "The test of a successful defence policy isn't how much money we spend; it's how much security we buy. And for the past eight years, we haven't gotten what we've gone into debt for... We have to build strong military forces based on sound planning and tough management, not wishful thinking and blank cheques."

Sudan victims braced for new floods

Khartoum (AFP) — A week after violent rains flooded the Sudanese capital, people watched in anguish yesterday as the waters of the Nile rose to within an inch or two of the alert level at 55 ft.

Despite clear weather, a fresh threat hangs over Khartoum, at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. Unusually heavy rain over the Ethiopian highlands, where the Blue Nile rises, has swollen the great river to levels seldom seen and catastrophic new flooding is feared.

Half of the sprawling city of three million is still without electricity, communications are cut and there is scarcely any public transport.

Even so, Khartoum looks almost back to normal, and there have been no reports of the protests after the first flooding, demanding the restoration of electricity.

In response to pressing appeals by the Government, which has declared a six-month state of emergency, international relief supplies have started arriving. Twenty planes carrying medicine, food, tents, generators and water pumps from Egypt, Britain, Italy and some Arab states have delivered their cargoes.

Hundreds of acres of market gardens along the banks of the river have disappeared under the floodwaters, destroying a harvest that was supposed to feed the capital.

A shortage of vegetables, not noticeable at the moment, is inevitable in the short term, a medical source said. Already there are long queues of people in the shops trying to hoard.

Thousands of the victims are refugees from Ethiopia's war-torn provinces of Eritrea and Tigré; others are nomads from Sudan's drought-stricken southern and western regions.

GENEVA: About \$785,000 (£440,000) has been pledged to buy flour, cooking oil and fuel for the flood victims on the spot (Reuters reports). The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said relief planes will deliver 1,000 tents, nearly 50,000 blankets and one million water purification tablets, to be distributed by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

About 1.26 million Swiss francs (£461,000) has been given by the Norwegian and Canadian governments and Red Cross societies in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Libya, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States.

Letters page 13

The Gulf ceasefire

Yugoslav general named to command monitoring team

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The United Nations observer group which is to monitor the Iran-Iraq ceasefire will be led by Major-General Slavko Jovic of Yugoslavia, according to UN sources.

He was selected by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary General, but the nomination is subject to Security Council approval.

He was nominated to command the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, the 350-man force which is to be deployed along the 740-mile border, and is expected to be aided by an Indian and an Irish general.

General Jovic, aged 58, was head of the foreign military liaison department of the Yugoslav Defence Ministry and has served with the UN in the Sinai.

In 1944, at the age of 14, he joined Tito's guerrillas fighting Nazi forces.

"He's smooth-talking, cool-headed, erudite, and very

good company, and he speaks extremely good English," a Western defence attaché said. His task will be made easier by the fact that Yugoslavia has maintained normal relations with both Iran and Iraq during the eight-year Gulf War.

His force will be made up of men provided by 24 nations, but Señor Pérez de Cuéllar yesterday called on the five permanent member nations of the Security Council to find much of the \$74 million (£43.5 million) the group is expected to cost in its first six months.

"You have a duty to pay for the consequences of your decisions," he said in an interview with French radio. "We need money immediately because it is going to be a very expensive operation."

Although he did not single out the United States, his remarks were seen as a reference to Washington's failure to pay part of its contributions

to other UN peace-keeping missions. Whitehall sources were surprised by his remarks and said the Government had expected to pay its normal share, but would consider any request for an additional contribution.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said he would probably ask the General Assembly next week to authorize the release of the necessary funds.

He is expected to attend the opening of face-to-face talks between Iran and Iraq, beginning in Geneva on August 25, but said yesterday he was considering nominating a mediator to represent him, and had a candidate in mind.

In Tehran, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the acting head of the armed forces, renewed demands that Baghdad be named as the aggressor, an issue expected to prove difficult at the direct talks.

He told a conference that if

Iran did not get justice on the issue, "this might have grave consequences for the region".

President Khamenei indicated a continuing distrust of Iraq's intentions. "The crafty enemy should not be trusted," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying. "We say the war is apparently drawing to a close, not definitely... We cannot consider the matter finished."

A UN advance group of five men, headed by a Canadian colonel, yesterday began preparations in Tehran for implementing the ceasefire on August 20.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, who is in Tehran, had talks with his Iranian counterpart, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati.

Meanwhile, an official of the National Iranian Oil Company has said that Iran will increase oil production and resume the search for new fields once war damage is repaired.

Back home to tears of joy



A Soviet soldier, back home from the Afghan front, getting an emotional welcome from an old woman. Thousands of Soviet troops, withdrawing from Afghanistan's southern provinces, began crossing the border at Kushka yesterday to music from military bands after a long march north (Reuters reports). About 2,000 men were expected to make the crossing into Soviet Turkmenia by nightfall. General Lev Serebiov told foreign

reporters. Three hundred soldiers and 34 military vehicles arrived in Kushka yesterday from Shin Dand, in Afghanistan's Farah province. Monday is the deadline for half of Moscow's 100,000 soldiers to have been withdrawn under UN-mediated accords signed at Geneva in April. The other half must go by February 15. Soviet troops will be pulled out of all but four of Afghanistan's 29 provinces in the next few days, according to Soviet officials.

Beirut hitmen set sights on Syrians

From Robert Fisk
West Beirut

Perhaps it is the forthcoming presidential election that has generated the attacks. Perhaps it is Iran's sudden loss of political and military power in Lebanon. But Syrian troops — who came to west Beirut as peace-keepers in February last year — are now coming under attack on the city's streets.

The Beirut newspapers, which maintain their own discreet self-censorship where the Syrians are concerned, rarely report the individual attacks, although some — such as the car bomb which exploded close to a Syrian police office in the Tarek Jdeide district on July 22 — have been too serious to ignore. Others — the rumour that a Syrian soldier was

murdered on Wednesday night, for example — have gone unreported.

But no resident of west Beirut could have failed to notice that the Syrian "special forces", soldiers who man the checkpoints around the Muslim sector of the city, have generally discarded their soft red berets in favour of steel helmets.

The attacks have so far been sporadic and largely unsuccessful. Nor has the normally loquacious Lebanese journalists' community ventured any guesses as to who is behind the campaign. Private suspicions have included disaffected members of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) movement and right-wing Christians who disapprove of Syria's involvement in choosing the next president of Lebanon.

On August 4, a bomb exploded in a

small shack which the Syrians used as a checkpoint near the "green line" crossing point at the museum. Four soldiers were wounded. The most serious assault came last week when gunmen murdered two Syrian soldiers on Corniche Mazraa, the long boulevard which bisects west Beirut between the museum and the sea. In the July 22 bomb incident, three Syrians were among 30 civilians who were wounded. Seven Lebanese were killed.

There has been no comment from the Syrian army command in west Beirut nor from the various militia groups which might be responsible. But Syrian units are showing increasing signs of nervousness, and the attacks are clearly intended to persuade them that their role in the Lebanese capital should be curtailed, if not ended.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Cannibalism row captain replaced

Washington — The captain of a US Navy ship who allegedly refused to rescue Vietnamese boat people who later resorted to cannibalism has been relieved of his command pending an investigation (Michael Binyon writes).

Captain Alex Balian will be replaced temporarily as commander of the USS Dubuque, an amphibious landing ship. The 52 survivors of the 37-day ordeal say that he refused to rescue them even though their 35 ft boat was disabled and some were dying of starvation and exposure. The crew gave them food, water, charts and directions after Captain Balian decided the boat was seaworthy, but they could not read the charts and about 58 died. They claimed to have killed and eaten some of their companions to survive.

Pretoria 'banned' list

Johannesburg — The South African Ministry of Justice has for the first time published a full list of all those "banned" under the Internal Security Act who may not be quoted in newspapers or publications here (Michael Hornsby writes).

There are 417 names on the list, believed to be the highest number ever recorded. Among those added are Mr Chris Hani and Mr Steve Tshwete, respectively chief of staff and political commissar of Umkhonto We Sizwe, armed wing of the ANC. Among the anomalies is the exclusion of Nelson Mandela, the jailed former commander of Umkhonto.

Tears for a president

Dhaka — Bangladesh's leading opposition figure, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, made an emotional appeal to her fellow countrymen yesterday to put pressure on the Government of President Ershad to obtain the trial of the killers of her father, who was murdered 13 years ago (Ahmed Fazi writes).

Beginning an opposition week of mourning, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, wept as he recalled the 1975 attack by rebel army officers on the family home in central Dhaka in which her parents, three brothers and 12 others died.

Guerrilla arms cache

Stockholm (Reuters) — Swedish police yesterday raided a flat believed to belong to Khadar Samir Mohamad, the Palestinian guerrilla accused of having masterminded the attack on the Greek tourist ship, City of Poros, and found a cache of Soviet-made weapons near by.

Nine tourists were killed and about 80 injured on July 11 when gunmen opened fire on the ship, carrying 471 passengers, as it returned to a marina near Athens after a day cruise to Greek islands. Greek police say that Khadar, aged 36, is a member of the radical Abu Nidal group.

Unita role rejected

Lisbon (AP) — Three days after the announcement by South Africa, Angola and Cuba of an immediate ceasefire in the 13-year Angolan war, Angola yesterday rejected direct talks demanded by Unita rebels who want a share of power.

In a statement distributed in Lisbon by the official Angop news agency, Angola described the Unita rebels as puppets controlled by South Africa. It said that Unita's exclusion from regional peace talks was "logical, normal and necessary for the establishment of peace".

UN chief focuses on Sahara conflict

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The United Nations Secretary-General has turned his attention to yet another area of long-standing conflict, in North Africa.

In the wake of his success in the Iran-Iraq negotiations, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is determined to make an effort to end the fighting between Moroccan forces and Polisario fighters in the disputed Western Sahara and settle the future of the territory. He put forward his proposed peace plan during two separate meetings in New York yesterday with Moroccan and Polisario Front delegations.

The plan calls for a ceasefire in the region, to be followed by a UN-conducted referendum in which the local Saharawi population (whom the Polisario represent) will be asked to determine their own future.

When Spain withdrew from the then Spanish Sahara in 1975, it handed over its administration to Morocco without consulting the native Saharawis. Moroccan claims

that the territory was once part of a greater Morocco before the era of colonization is disputed by the Polisario to the extent that they switched from fighting for independence against occupying Spanish forces to fighting — for the past 13 years — the ever-increasing numbers of Moroccan troops sent to defend the area against them.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar would like a speedy response to his plan from both sides, despite the difficulties of conducting such a referendum. The fact that he held separate meetings, first with the Moroccan delegation and then with members of the Polisario Front, makes clear Morocco's continued refusal to meet the Polisario directly.

The nomadic Saharawi population has become dispersed since 1975. Many fled the Western Sahara then as Moroccan troops marched in. An estimated 150,000 are living in Algerian refugee camps.

Worldwide trade nets millions

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Illegal trading in ivory, the skins of endangered species and small live wild animals and birds is a \$1.5 billion (£887 million) business annually, according to the Lausanne secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Ninety-five states have ratified the 1973 convention, which went into force two years later and is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Mr Jean-Patrick le Duc, a UN scientist and the convention's enforcement officer, says that live animals, such as cockatoos and crocodiles, chimpanzees and reptiles, comprise half the total of this illegal international trade.

He said when recently a traveller arrived at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport from Mali, French Customs officials found in his baggage 50 pythons, 20 tortoises, 20 lizards and several Gabon

vipers. The 100 or so reptiles were intended for the European market, mainly France, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

In another incident, Spanish Customs officers found 2,000 baby crocodiles, shipped illegally from Colombia to Taiwan, via Panama and Madrid, in crates. On opening the crates they found 1,500 had died.

A clandestine shipment of 2,000 endangered parrots from Gabon was caught in June as it was entering Ghana, Mr le Duc said. Bought for about \$10 (£6) each, they were destined for sale in the US market at about \$600 a piece — for a profit of more than \$1 million.

While most such shipments go by air, one exception was the Asian she-elephant from Vietnam that arrived by ship last month in Rotterdam intended for Czechoslovakia. She was in a pitiful state, her only food on the six-week

voyage from Singapore having been sugar cane. She is now recovering in Rotterdam Zoo.

Mr le Duc says traders taking small animals by air concentrate on the holiday months when it is easier to get luggage past overworked customs officers. A number of airlines, he points out, are lax in complying with the 1973 convention.

Interpol is working closely with the Lausanne secretariat in hunting down international networks specializing in this illicit trade.

"Total trade in wildlife is valued at about \$5 billion. We estimate between 20 and 30 per cent is illegal, or roughly \$1 billion," Mr le Duc said. All legal wild life exports are within the quotas fixed by the convention so as not to threaten the survival of a species. He had high praise for the way in which some African countries are now striving to enforce the convention provisions with the aim of

preserving their natural resources.

Hong Kong, one of the world's main ivory trading centres, is now enforcing strict import controls on all carved ivory. For years, lack of controls there had enabled traders to import hundreds of tons of poached ivory, and then unload it on the international markets.

BONN: West German police yesterday were guarding about 50 cattle sheds in Westphalia where 14,000 calves, believed to have been injected with an illegal hormone mixture, including two testosterone "natural growth" preparations potentially harmful to humans, have been confiscated (John England writes).

Injection marks have been found on the throats of at least 4,200 calves which are to be slaughtered. A cattle-breeder, Herr Felix Hying, aged 50, of Siedloh, near Münster, has been arrested.

Critics' guffaws greet controversial Jesus film

From Charles Bremner
New York

After weeks of holy fury, Martin Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* opens amid protests and picketing in New York and seven other American cities tonight, but if the Devil is around, he will not be keen to take the credit.

Even by the standards of Hollywood, rarely can so much fuss have been made about a film that is both so poor and exorcisingly earnest. For whole stretches of the two-hour and 40-minute *Temptation*, it is hard to remember you are not watching Monty Python or a Mel Brooks send-up of the Biblical epic.

"I wanna rebel against God, but I'm afraid," says Willem Dafoe's very American Jesus, a character who looks as if he came straight from the Woodstock pop festival to the arid Moroccan landscapes where the low-budget film was made. "Be careful, God isn't alone up there," warns a John the Baptist, who

embodies every quirk of the crazed Python hermit.

Adapting the 1955 novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, Mr Scorsese presents a weak, doubting and, at times, listless Jesus as something of a diffident hippie. In his Sermon on the Mount, he begins: "Er, um, I'm sorry but the easiest way to make myself clear is to tell you a story." Funniest among a band of disciples with Brooklyn accents is Harvey Keitel's unintentionally hilarious Judas, a Lower East Side Jew, who seems to have escaped from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

For some reason, Mr Scorsese, a former altar-boy who has been trying to make the film since 1972, has given English accents to the Devil and the Romans.

In various incarnations, Satan comes over in the tones of an old BBC announcer or a London schoolgirl. David Bowie, the pop singer, plays Pontius Pilate as a laconic Cockney. Confronting the condemned Jesus, he concludes: "This

means you're just another Jewish politician."

The main reviews were only due out today, but judging by guffaws at an advance showing, some audiences will find it hard to keep a straight face. Among early comment, one Hollywood reporter said Mr Scorsese's Jesus seemed to have been trapped for 40 years in a Grateful Dead convoy, and the critic for *Sneak Previews* said: "It's the height of irony that this level of controversy could be generated by a movie this awful."

"Two hours and forty minutes of boredom," said an ABC TV critic. But some reviewers have given Mr Scorsese, who is much admired for *Taxi Driver* and other films, credit for tackling his tough subject. "Those willing to accompany Scorsese on his dangerous ride through the Gospels may believe he has created a masterpiece," *Time* magazine said.

Mr Scorsese has spent much of the week defending himself against

the onslaught of indignation from Christians who are particularly incensed by the scenes in which the fictional Jesus imagines making love to Mary Magdalene and bringing up a family. "This is not exploitation. This is not the sex life of Jesus," he argues. "It's a temptation to live your life as an ordinary man, to come down from the cross and marry, to make love so that you have children and live out a normal life and to die a sweet death in bed."

While the director and quite a few clergymen are arguing that the film makes a strong case for the Christian faith, the Catholic bishops this week branded it as "morally offensive" and called on the country's 53 million church members to stay away from it. "Most Christians will be outraged," said Bishop Anthony Bosco, chief of the church committee that assesses films.

In the Bible Belt states, hundreds of congregations are campaigning to have the film withdrawn and Mr Jerry Falwell, the television pres-

cher, has called for a boycott of Universal Studios. He predicts that the film will create "a wave of anti-Semitism".

Fundamentalist Baptists last week staged a mock crucifixion at Universal Studios in Hollywood, with the nailing being done by a man supposed to be Mr Lew Wasserman, the head of MCA, Universal's parent company. Extremists say the film is the product of Hollywood's Jewish Mafia.

This week, the protest was joined by Franco Zeffirelli, the Italian director, who called the film "truly horrible and completely deranged" and objected to it being shown at the Venice Film Festival.

Experts are betting that the row will generate box-office dollars for a film that would otherwise have been relegated to the art circuit. But some think the company could suffer if the protests gather momentum. "If the theatres are burned down, it isn't possible to sell tickets," said an editor at *Hollywood Reporter*.

Peking pledges to keep up its aid for the Khmer Rouge

By David Watts

Just as the years of suffering appeared about to end, Chinese support of the Khmer Rouge is coming back to haunt Cambodia.

Hopes of a peace settlement, raised by the recent meeting of opposing forces in Jakarta, were dampened by a Chinese announcement yesterday that Peking remains "firm in its principled position" of giving military support to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia so long as the Vietnamese forces remain.

The Chinese spokesman said the view that China should stop supplying arms to the Khmer Rouge diverted attention from the need to press Vietnam to pull out.

In reality, the Khmer Rouge have more weapons than they know what to do with and are infiltrating the people, spreading propaganda especially in the remote areas, in a re-run of history which is likely to continue for as long as China sees the need to prevent Hanoi establishing permanent hegemony in Indochina.

Just last week in a Khmer refugee camp on the Thai border, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said the Khmer Rouge

must never again be allowed to rule in Cambodia, but the political realities seem to be working against that.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former ruler seen by the West as the best hope for peace, remains the Khmer Rouge. Yet the Chinese spokesman repeated that Peking wanted to see a peaceful, non-aligned Cambodia under Prince Sihanouk with no party holding a monopoly of power.

The military emasculation of the 35,000 to 40,000 Khmer Rouge fighters is essential to the establishment of any real peace in Cambodia and the timing of the Chinese statement appears calculated to block further progress before a forthcoming meeting of the various Cambodian players at a meeting of non-aligned states in Harare, Zimbabwe.

It is also a reminder that there can be no settlement without wholehearted Chinese participation, no matter what the West and Prince Sihanouk may hope, and an indication that China will not play the Khmer Rouge card until it is certain that the Soviet Union

is willing and capable of bringing the Vietnamese to heel. That will be discussed when the Soviet Union and China meet on August 20.

Despite the commitment to remove troops under an accelerated schedule, Vietnam shows all the signs of doing it unwillingly. During his recent visit to Bangkok the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, left the Thais as wary as ever of Vietnamese intentions.

But the Thais have been surprisingly open recently about their support of the Khmer Rouge as the only truly viable force opposing the Vietnamese and cynical about the real value of the Prince as the once and future ruler of Cambodia.

The Thai army leadership makes no secret of assistance flowing over the border and Chinese help in defusing Thailand's insurgency problem makes Bangkok beholden to the Chinese leadership over and above both sides' desire for good relations. Both the Thai and Chinese attitudes give the hardliners in the Hanoi leadership every justification for moving slowly.

Thai leader seeks guidance



Mr Chatichai Choonhavan, the first elected Prime Minister of Thailand for 12 years, praying yesterday outside Government House, Bangkok, before taking over from General Prem Tinsulanonda. A right-wing coup during 1976 put an end to three years of democracy.

Italy's kidnappers plague summer nests of ultra-rich

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Summer is the season of easy ransoms, shootings and snatches in craggy Sardinia and the mountain warrens of Calabria. The number of kidnappings has soared in the past few weeks. In Rome, the talk is of sending the Army down to Calabria, the heel of the boot of the Italian peninsula, to shake up the bandits and study the terrain.

The trouble this summer began in the Costa Smeralda, the exclusive piece of Sardinian coastline developed by the Aga Khan. It is now a millionaires' playground, and dozens of leading businessmen have villas there.

In Porto Cervo, yachts as white and bulky as Moby Dick bob quietly, while girls in bikinis scrub the decks, waiting for proprietors to arrive by helicopter from Milan and Frankfurt.

There are ample pickings for the local people whose mountain men have become skilled kidnappers. The first to go this summer was Signor Giulio de Angelis, the multi-millionaire. The gang evaded the Costa's private security forces, rushed Signor de Angelis's own bodyguards, burst into the dining room and stripped the guests of all jewellery. They ransacked the house, tied up the guests, cut the phone lines and disappeared with Signor de Angelis. Negotiations, one can assume, are under way.

Countess Marta Marzotta, long-time mistress of the late painter Renato Guttuso, recently escaped a similar fate. Six men wearing jeans and ski masks entered her Sardinian villa through the garden gate. As the Countess was briefly away, the bandits found only her mother, a nanny and the maid. The women were locked in a room but the gang fled when they heard a police siren.

Last weekend, the police intercepted and arrested two Frenchmen with false passports who were making their way to the nearby villa of Mr Johnny Abdo, the Lebanese Ambassador to Switzerland. He was a former head of Lebanese army security services and the local police claim that they foiled an assassination attempt.

But on the whole, the police are trying to play down the incidents. Some millionaires have already broken off their

holidays, and it would be bad for business to spread word of a kidnapping epidemic.

The Sardinian kidnappers are often the sons of shepherds and scrub farmers who moved across the water to Tuscany in search of work. People from Sardinia run trade and have a nose for a ransom. Captives are held in the inaccessible caves of the Sardinian hinterland or, more frequently nowadays, in remote Tuscan farm houses.

There is similar terrain in Calabria, where some mountains are said to exist "outside the law", with carabinieri ever managing to penetrate the caves and passes.

Calabrian kidnappers recently released Marco Fiora, aged seven, who was held in the caves for one and a half years. After being in manacles for so long he was unable to move his leg, had sores all over his arms and barely recognized his mother.

Again, the circumstances of his release are obscure. This is because Italian police powers include the right to tap the phone of the parents to prevent the payment of ransom. That has helped to bring down the number of kidnappings from the peak of the 1970s. But it also means that many families bypass the police entirely and lie to them about ransom demands.

Not everybody, however, takes a bleak view of the future of kidnapping. A Calabrian magistrate, Dr Riccardo Lombardo, detects a significant decline since the 1970s when 75 per cent of all European abductions were committed in Italy. Ransoms, at least reported ransoms, are smaller; the magistrate says that only two kidnaps were paid off last year, one for £1.5 million, the second for £2.5 million.

This is partly because it is more difficult to launder kidnapping money — the traditional Mafia has, by and large, abandoned kidnapping and does not handle ransom cash. But the magistrate concedes that kidnapping now lasts longer — in the old days victims were usually snatched for no more than five days — and the abductions are almost always carried out in the summer when security is lax and it is warmer in the caves.

Letter from New York

Touching yarns in begging boom

The Subway doors open at the 33rd Street station. Along with a burst of 110° heat and an army of rush-hour passengers, a thin black youth fights his way on board and starts his pitch. "Ladies and gentlemen, you are going home to your families. I am not so fortunate. I am going to ask for a donation."

Bad luck for the beggar, but he has failed to notice a colleague using a megaphone to tell his captive audience at the other end of the carriage: "I have Aids and nothing to eat."

The summer of 1988 will be remembered in New York not just for the record-breaking pall of grey heat that has hung over the city for weeks, prompting one newspaper to warn: "Breathe as little as possible."

For Manhattanites, even the sewage and human body parts washing up on the outer beaches takes second place to the new biggest nuisance — an invasion of beggars who ply the avenues and streets stirring guilt and anger in the working population.

"Panhandlers" are, of course, a New York fixture. Commentators from staid places such as Miami and Los Angeles usually sprinkle a few references to Calcutta when they catalogue the tribulations of life in the Big Apple. The city has long had one of the biggest homeless populations in the Western world. But something has happened in the past few months to shorten the fuses of the already short-tempered citizenry.

Not only have the numbers exploded, but New York begging has taken an aggressive turn. Try to approach a New Yorker for directions now and the chances are he will assume you want money, avoid eye contact and stride away expecting a deluge of abuse that the new-style beggars like to pour on the uncharitable.

According to the experts, the begging boom reflects not so much a growth in the poor, homeless and mentally ill, but the disappearance of the stigma attached to the practice, and the discovery that with a good story, a bit of aggression and perhaps a ragged child in tow, you can make up to \$70 (£41) a day.

Approaches vary. Some perform "services" such as opening the door to bank cash machines or wiping wind-screens with greasy rags. Some

harangue the crowd waiting for lights to change. Others simply adapt the old "Buddy, can you spare a dime?" to something more modern like: "Gimme your watch."

New Yorkers, of course, know the difference between a mugger and a request for charity, but not the tourists who are said to be the biggest givers.

With the new-style beggars fighting for choice spots on tourist strips like Fifth Avenue, Mayor Edward Koch has decided to slow the action. "It's become a life-style thing for some people. I don't want New York City to become a city where people think it's OK to assume the role of beggars as if it were a profession," he said this week.

Undaunted by the failure of his attempt last year to order the removal of the visibly deranged, or "crazies" from the streets, Mr Koch has ordered an advertising campaign telling New Yorkers to give money to charity instead of beggars. He is incensed by the ones who use children as they do in the Third World. "It's sort of what they used to do in Dickensian times when they used to cripple the kids," he said.

The Mayor's approach is being supported by many of the city's workers. Mr Douglas Platt, the director of a big city shelter, said the young, "professional" street hustlers are crowding out the truly needy. "Since panhandling rewards the most persuasive sales people, the people who most need donations might be the least likely to get them." And most of the hand-outs are going to support drug and alcohol addictions, he says.

Last week, the Mayor, who knows his middle-class electorate, won a cheer when he advised: "If you feel guilty, see a priest." Guilt is, of course, something New Yorkers normally discuss with their therapists. Those not on holiday are busy advising patients how to "deal" with the emotion.

"It provides a new target for my homicidal fantasies," one psychoanalyst said in *The New York Times*, describing his response to a beggar who demanded: "Give me half your doughnut." He added that "the beggars are expressing hostility not just asking for money. They want to force you to feel guilty."

Charles Bremner

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summer
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holidays, and it would be
for business to spread
a kidnapping epidemic.
The Sardinian kidnappers
are often the sons of wealthy
and scrub farmers who have
across the water to Tunisia
search of work. People have
Sardinia run part of the
each drug trade and the
nese for a ransom. Cases
are held in the Sardinian
caves of the Sardinian
land or, more frequently
sadays, in remote Italian
houses.
There is similar terror
Calabria, where some
ains are said to exist
the law", with carabinieri
managing to penetrate
caves and passes.
Calabrian kidnappers
cently released three
aged seven, who were
the caves for one and a
years. After being man
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ogized his mother.
Again, the circumstances
his release are obscure.
because Italian police
include the right to
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freeze their accounts to
vent the payment of rans
That has helped to incre
the number of kidnapp
from the peak of the 1970s
But it also means that
families bypass the ju
entirely and live in the
ransom demands.
Not everybody, how
takes a bleak view of
of kidnapping. A Calab
magistrate, Dr Riccardo
hardy, detects a signifi
decline since the 1970s
75 per cent of all kidn
abductions were consid
Italy. Ransoms are less
ported, ransoms are less
the magistrate says that
two kidnaps were paid
year, one for £15 million
second for £15 million.
This is partly because
more difficult to trace
rap money - an Italian
Mafia has by now aban
abandoned kidnapping
does not make sense
But the magistrate says
char kidnapping is no
longer - in Italy kidn
victims were often
but no more kidnapp
and the kidnappers
always carried out
kidnapping word Italia
and it is a common
Charles Brown

Ecuador's new President Borja follows Cuban line on withholding foreign debt repayments

Castro returns with a flourish to South American limelight

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Like an old trouper making the most of a chance to tread the boards again after an enforced absence due to lack of bookings, Dr Fidel Castro has dominated the show.

His stage entry may show him slightly stooped, and the uniformed figure much more corpulent, but he is still undoubtedly a big star.

The President of Cuba, aged 62, has been seeking an engagement in South America for 17 years and this week the comeback has been finally realized, to rapturous applause and notices in Ecuador.

He last played the continent back in 1971 during an extensive visit to Chile. His friend, Salvador Allende, was in power and it was the best of times to be Latin American and socialist. It all came to grief, of course, two years later.

Dr Castro, who recently ruled that *glasnost* and *perestroika* were "inappropriate" for his own communist Caribbean island, has been visiting Quito to see democracy in action during a transition of government in South America's second smallest republic.

The outgoing President, Señor León Febres Cordero, a right-winger who popular in Washington, left office after four stormy years to deafening boos, which did nothing to ease his notoriously short temper. He refused even to attend the inauguration in Congress of his successor, Señor Rodrigo Borja, a Social Democrat.

Immediately after being sworn in, President Borja restored diplomatic relations with the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua, which were severed three years ago by his predecessor. That allowed attendance at the inauguration had been barred by a petulant last act by the defiant Señor Febres Cordero, to arrive in Quito yesterday to meet Ecuador's new leader.

President Borja also took a leaf out of Dr Castro's book by announcing that Ecuador would not make payments on its \$10 billion (£5.9 billion) foreign debt, one of the highest per capita in Latin America, "under present conditions".

But, although Ecuadorians loudly cheered President Borja's ascent to power, neither he nor other Latin American presidents attending the inauguration celebrations could match the enthusiasm that greeted Dr Castro's every move since he arrived in Quito on Tuesday.

Ecuador was well chosen for his return to South America. It has a built-in left-wing majority spread diversely from Señor Borja's centre-left *Izquierda Democrática* to a proliferation of workers' and Marxist parties.



The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, arriving at the Ecuadorian National Congress under armed escort on Wednesday for the inauguration of President Borja (Reuters reports from Quito). Mr Shultz objected strongly to a mural under which distinguished visitors sat for the ceremony. It depicted the CIA as a skeleton wearing a Nazi helmet. He said the mural was "a message of insult to the United States". He added that perhaps the mural, by the Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamín, had been designed to deter him from coming to the inauguration, but it had failed to do so.

\$4 billion relief for American farmers

Washington - President Reagan has signed a \$3.9 billion (£2.3 billion) relief package to help farmers suffering crop losses of more than 35 per cent of their expected harvest because of drought and other natural calamities (Michael Binyon writes).

Farmers with crop losses of more than 75 per cent would receive payments equal to 90 per cent of their income. Small farmers can receive up to \$100,000 each. However, rich farmers with large holdings will be excluded from benefits.

Fossil find

Peking (Reuters) - The fossil skulls of baby dinosaurs, believed to have been smothered in a Gobi Desert sandstorm 75 million years ago, have been unearthed by a joint Sino-Canadian expedition.

Nile tragedy

Edfu, Egypt (Reuters) - Divers pulled 10 bodies - five Italians and five Egyptians - from the Nile and searched for 19 people still missing from a tourist boat which capsized, police said.

Village whirl

Moscow (Reuters) - A 500 ft-high tornado, about 250 ft across, swept through the Siberian village of Sarbakui, razing houses and stores and injuring eight people, according to Tass.

Migrant flyers

Bombay (Reuters) - More than a quarter - 350 - of the pilots working for Air India and Indian Airlines, have applied for better-paid jobs with three foreign airlines, the Indian Pilots' Guild said.

Victory inquiry

Johannesburg (AP) - South African Police have investigated 67 white men, including a clergyman and prominent businessman, thought to be involved in child sex rings here and in Cape Town.

On the way up

Coredo (Reuters) - The Italian climber, Reinhold Messner, aged 43, the first man to climb the world's 14 highest mountains, plans to tackle the unconquered south face of Lhotse in the Himalayas in April next year.

Panama's top brass face purge as Noriega tightens his grip

From David Gollob, Panama City

Panama's military ruler, General Manuel Noriega, is expected to announce a series of dismissals and promotions of top ranking officers in the Panamanian Defence Forces today, in what Western diplomats here see as a shake-up designed to further consolidate his power.

The announcement is to mark the fifth anniversary of the general's appointment as chief of the armed forces, which will be celebrated by the military and Noriega supporters in a "Panamanian Dignity Rally".

The rallies are intended to emphasize the repeated failure of the US Administration to remove him from power. Diplomats say they do not attach credence to rumours that General Noriega will also announce plans to present himself as a candidate in the presidential elections due to be held next year. He has, however, previously hinted at this possibility.

However, Señor Ricardo Arias Calderón, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, said Panama's National Assembly, which is dominated by the pro-Noriega Revolutionary Democratic Party, is likely to approve reforms to the country's electoral laws this week that will enable the general to stay in his post until a month before the elections without prejudicing his eligibility as a presidential candidate. Under present electoral laws, Panamanian officials must resign six months before presenting themselves as candidates in elections.

"It's a very real possibility (that he will run)", Señor Arias Calderón said in an interview. "There's no other logical explanation for these reforms."

Señor Arias Calderón said opposition parties had not yet decided whether they would contest elections in which General Noriega participated.

"The opposition media have been shut down, all opposition demonstrations have been banned. We cannot even begin to talk about the electoral process until these measures are lifted," he said.

The pro-Noriega rally coincides with the visit to Panama this week of a high-ranking US State Department official, Mr Morton Abramowitz.

Officials in Washington denied that Mr Abramowitz, who is Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, had any plans to meet General Noriega or resume negotiations with him.

Earlier this year, the Reagan Administration offered to lift economic sanctions against Panama in exchange for the general's departure, but negotiations broke down in May.

Señor Arias Calderón said he was bitterly disappointed by inconsistencies in US policy towards Panama's *de facto* ruler. The Reagan Administration still recognizes the deposed President, Señor Eric Arturo Delvalle, as Panama's legitimate head of state.

"First they installed Noriega, then they changed to a policy of confrontation, then they tried negotiations. It's this vacillation that has proved most disappointing."

General Noriega is believed to have been an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency in Panama since his days as a lieutenant. But he fell out with Washington in 1985 for reasons that have still not been clarified. This year, he was indicted by two federal grand juries in the US on charges of involvement in drug trafficking and money laundering.

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SPECTRUM

The prison under a sentence

JOHN MANNING



A new prison, the same problems: Swaleside, on the Isle of Sheppey, which accepts its first inmates on Monday amid warnings from the Prison Officers' Association that staff are too inexperienced to control the "lifers" who will be in their care

Next Monday a heavily escorted prison van will cross the Kingsferry Bridge to the Isle of Sheppey, on the bleak north Kent coast. On board will be a batch of 12 high-risk category-B prisoners. Among them there could well be some "lifers".

Their destination will be the hi-tech security gates of the latest product of the Government's prison building programme, Swaleside Prison, named after the River Swale, which separates Sheppey from the mainland. It is, in the words of the Home Office, a "state of the art prison". The men bound there will be the first of a population which will gradually rise to a full complement of 504.

Swaleside, with its positive training programme and removal of hated features of the past, such as "slopping out", is said to symbolize a new era in the relationship between the Government and its strife-torn prison service. Unfortunately, there are already signs that it has similar troubles in store to those affecting other prisons throughout the country, where officers are refusing to admit new inmates in disputes over manning levels.

For years the state of prisons has been a subject pushed into the background of the national consciousness... there have never been many votes in it. As a result, the situation has degenerated into that detailed below, in which a combination of overcrowded prisons and an allegedly under-staffed service has led to riots, militant action by some warders, and dangerous flash-points throughout the country.

The Home Office claims to be tackling the problem in two main ways. It is building more prisons to relieve overcrowding and it has launched a new deal in the pay and conditions of

the prison service, called Fresh Start. There should be five new prisons "on stream" in the next year and approximately 1,400 more prison officers.

Swaleside was due to have opened on June 13. The Home Office says the delay was caused by technical problems which one of the contractors experienced with the alarm system.

However, sources in the Prison Officers' Association claim that there is a different explanation. They say the delay was the result of the Home Office's money-saving decision to require officers to find their own accommodation rather than provide the staff with special quarters.

One of Britain's new-look gaols will open on Monday. But, Pearson Phillips reports, it is going to face problems from the start

Adrian Harper, the secretary of the Swaleside's Prison Officers' Association, says: "The Home Office refused to spend the extra money to build accommodation next to the prison. This means that many of our people being trained in the north cannot move down here. A family from Durham, for instance, has no alternative but to drop

out. They simply can't afford to move to north Kent. And the waiting lists are far too long for them to get a council house."

So far, only 84 of the projected complement of 212 officers have been recruited. According to the POA most of them are new recruits coming straight from training. More experienced off-

icers are reluctant to make the move to a job which will involve a drop in housing and living standards. Harper, who has been in the service for nine years and who moved to Sheppey from Manchester, warns that this will inevitably lead to trouble.

He says: "The cells will not all be filled at once - but we know that many of the prisoners will be 'lifers' and that 70 per cent of the officers will have come straight from college."

"It is not hard to see that there will be problems when a lot of men with nothing to lose are being kept under control by a largely inexperienced and overworked staff."

"The Gartree Prison riots of a few years ago were caused in part by the inexperience of the officers. The Home Office has not done enough to make sure this new prison will operate properly and effectively from the start."

The Home Office, for its part, points out that it was part of the Fresh Start agreement of 1986 that officers should be given help to buy houses for themselves. Staff who have been living in prison quarters or other public housing for more than two years are able to benefit from a 30 per cent discount scheme aimed at helping them to become owner-occupiers. "Our policy is that staff should be encouraged to buy and live in the local community," according to a Home Office spokesman.

This policy is aimed at a service which is nowadays recruited less and less from former Service personnel who are accustomed to "institutional living". The Home Office does agree, however, that the wide gulf in the price of houses between the North and the South-East can lead to difficulties. Discussions between the Government and the POA about ways of relieving this problem are said to be at an early stage.

Two views of the future seem to emerge. On one side the Government wants a leaner, less institutional prison service made up of professional individuals, with more administrative tasks taken over by civilians. On the other side are the majority of officers, who see themselves living in constant danger and seek safety in numbers, with the solidarity and support which comes from service life.

"It comes down to who runs our prisons," says Douglas Hogg, the Home Office Minister in charge. The battle has already begun over who runs Swaleside.

NATIONWIDE, THE FLASH-POINTS AND THEIR RECORD OF RIOTS, SIEGES AND ROOFTOP PROTESTS

Berlin, Glasgow. Short-term, local (to city courts) prison. 980 places, 950 inmates. Sieges, hostage-taking, rooftop protest and warders injured in incidents last year.

Dartmoor. Closed vocational training prison. Short, medium and long-termers. 623 places, 514 inmates. Isolated, cold, unpopular. History of industrial troubles.

Gartree, Leicestershire. Top security prison, to which high-risk prisoners are dispersed. 320 places, 309 inmates. December 1987, two prisoners escaped by helicopter.

Glenochil, Clackmannanshire. Long-term prisoners, with detention centre for younger offenders. 495 adult places, 400 inmates. Detention centre: 121 places, 118 inmates. Officers wear riot gear permanently in parts of prison. May 1988 riot, three warders hurt, prisoner seriously burnt. July 1988, inmates in "dirty" protest.

Gloucester. Local prison. 193 places, 282 inmates. POA national overtime dispute started here. Riot.

roof-top protest in 1988. Haverigg, Cumbria. Closed training prison. 247 places, 193 inmates. Riots this year, mass escape and fires.

Holloway, London. Women's local prison. 517 places, 480 inmates. History of protests over staffing levels. Current dispute.

Lincoln, near Doncaster. Closed training prison. 1,001 places, 900 inmates. July 1988, six escaped and buildings damaged.

Northey, East Sussex. Closed training prison. 224 places, 194 inmates. May 1988 riot, massive destruction.

Perth. Long-termers. 500 places, 405 inmates. October 1987 riot. May 1988, prisoners take officer hostage.

Peterhead, near Aberdeen. High security prison. Violent and sex offenders. 180 places, 120 inmates. Hostage taking, riots and "dirty" protest during last three years.

Riley, near Warrington. 606 places, 702 inmates. July 1988, heavily condemned by Chief Inspector of Prisons because of

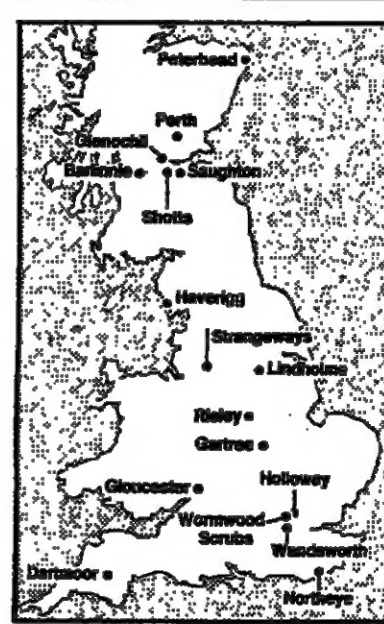
suicide level. Work-to-rule and strike in 1988. Saughton, Edinburgh. Local prison. Short-termers, remand and local first offenders. 547 places, 570 inmates. Riot, hostage-taking in 1986.

Shotts, Lanarkshire. New long-term, showpiece prison. 528 places, 468 inmates. Rioting, hostage-taking in September 1987.

Strangeways, Manchester. Local prison. 970 places, 1,784 inmates. Said to be the most overcrowded prison in Europe.

Wandsworth, London. Local prison. 1,266 places, 1,539 inmates. Most prisoners serving over 18 months. Two years of industrial action. Current ban on new admissions. Prisoners often locked up 23 hours a day.

Wormwood Scrubs, London. Local prison, with wing for 250 long-term prisoners including "lifers". 1,024 places, 1,039 inmates. March 1988, officers padlocked main gate in protest at overcrowding. Ban on admissions followed.



THE TIMES BARCLAYS BANK INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

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Entry forms and full details from Andrew Cavell, Manager, High Technology Team, Barclays Bank PLC, 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY

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Actors who call the shots

Chaplin did it, Orson Welles did it, now Robert Redford's new film, *The Milagro Beanfield War*, is the latest in a series of movies directed by actors. Tomorrow *The Times* looks at how they adapt to life behind the lens

Beanfield warriors: from Robert Redford's *The Milagro Beanfield War*

As houses spread across Dorset's dry heathland, one of Britain's most magnificent birds may find itself without a home

Putting the hobby to flight

One of the most magnificent sights in the British skies is that of a hobby, running down its prey of young swallows and house martins. With its slate grey back, and wings swept sharply back like scythes, this rare falcon has a brutally efficient style. It is the avian equivalent of fast bowler Malcolm Marshall.

In a pine tree on the southern edge of Canford Heath, a mile or so from the town centre of Poole, Dorset - and on the edge of a housing estate - two hobbies are nesting this summer. They form one of only 500 pairs in Britain. Their choice of nesting site, on their quarter of a mile square of dry heathland, is not irrational, or new. What has happened is that Poole's housing estates have arrived on their doorstep.

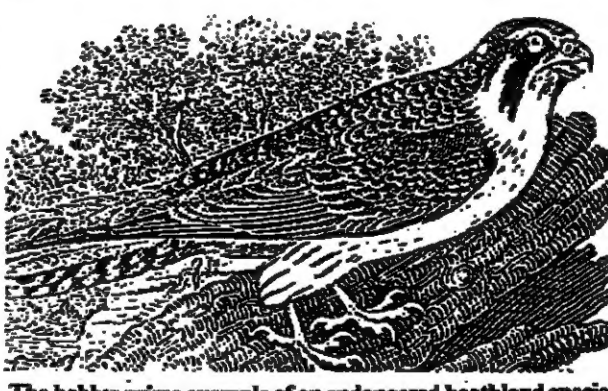
When the hobbies return next year, in fact, they are likely to find that their tree has disappeared. Instead there will be a mix of houses, from executive to starter homes. The part of Canford Heath where they nest is zoned for "medium density" building - a prime example, according to Chris Tydeman, of the World

Wide Fund for Nature, of how existing wildlife legislation is failing to work.

As well as the hobby, Canford Heath contains the nightjar, woodlark and Dartford Warbler, all nationally endangered species; some of Europe's rarest reptiles, sand lizards and smooth snakes; three types of gorse; and uncommon butterflies such as the gatekeeper and grayling. It is typical of a kind of internationally important lowland heathland which is in decline over much of Europe.

The Dorset heaths contain 90 per cent of the United Kingdom's sand lizards and 80 per cent of its smooth snakes, both endangered species. In fact the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds now regards this type of sandy heathland, unaltered since pre-historic times, as the most vulnerable habitat type in Britain, more important even than Scotland's Flow country.

Two hundred years ago there were about 98,000 acres



The hobby: prime example of an endangered heathland species

of heathland in the Poole Basin. Today there are fewer than 14,000 acres in isolated blobs around south-east Dorset, less than a fifth of which are protected as nature reserves. Ten per cent have been lost within the past 10 years alone.

Most of these heathland pockets have been designated by the Nature Conservancy Council as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs),

structure plan, when conservationists will formally object to further plans to develop heathland, this time near Bournemouth Airport.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the NCC, the Government's wildlife agency, has the power to designate SSSIs and, if they are threatened, either to compulsorily purchase them or to conclude financial agreements to prevent damage. In practice, this is usually too expensive. But Canford does not even have this protection because only part of it was designated as an SSSI in 1985.

The southern third of the heath was excluded because the NCC believed "irrevocable permission" had been granted for building and it was futile to draw a line around land it could not defend. But Keith Corbett, of the British Herpetological Society, said yesterday that the NCC was wrong to exclude any part of the heath. "The southern third is as rich in wildlife terms as

the rest of the heath, if not richer," he said.

Jeremy Wright, chief assistant town planner for Poole District Council, said the land had been designated for building since at least 1979. He pointed out that Poole was one of the fastest growing areas in Britain, with a population of about 126,000 and a growth of 16,000 in the past 14 years.

The Council had used as much waste and derelict land as it could, yet demand for housing in the area was "unending". There was still a "tremendous scarcity" of building land. (Ironically, however, the town's green belt, which lies beyond Canford and has little nature value, is being firmly maintained.)

This autumn the RSPB will launch a campaign to inform local planners of the international importance of this sweep of heather and gorse, described by Thomas Hardy as "singularly colossal in its swartthy monotony". On that campaign's success may depend the hobby's survival next spring.

Garth Huw Davies

SCIENCE REPORT

When comets fall out and stars go to war

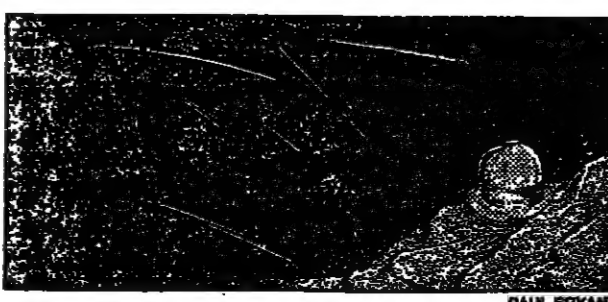
Shooting stars will be a treat for stargazers this week as the Earth meets its regular twice-yearly appointment with the so-called Perseid meteorites. Plunging into the Earth's atmosphere and burning up in an incandescent blaze, these tiny particles, no bigger than a grain of rice and often much smaller, are what remains of a comet that disintegrated long ago. The cloud of debris continues to follow the vanished comet's orbit, and, as the Earth passes through it, shooting stars invade the upper atmosphere, apparently coming from a point in the constellation Perseus, just below the distinctive "W" of Cassiopeia. Many other dust clouds produce meteorite showers, but the signs are that this year's Perseids will put on a spectacular display.

From London, the shooting

stars should appear just before dawn, as Perseus rises in the eastern sky. There should still be plenty to see over the coming weekend.

As well as looking for meteorites, astronomers have been studying the summer sky with great interest since the announcement in May (see Science Report, May 19) of a unique rapidly-rotating neutron star (or pulsar) in the constellation Sagitta, about 10° above the bright star Altair, which, with Deneb and Vega, makes up the distinctive "Summer Triangle", a prominent feature of the northern summer's evening sky.

Until now, the new pulsar, PSR 1957+20, has been "seen" only with radio telescopes, but the first visual sighting is reported in *Nature* this week. Shrinivas Kulkarni and colleagues based at Mount



Pulsar in Sagitta in California, have spotted a very faint star in the position of the original radio signal.

The pulsar, an object as weighty as the Sun but only a dozen kilometres across, is spinning 625 times a second and, once every nine hours, completes a close orbit with its partner, a dim star about one-tenth the size of the Sun but with only one-fiftieth its mass.

a charge-coupled device (CCD), Kulkarni and colleagues looked for a star whose brightness varied in time with the eclipse period deduced from the radio observations and this is what they found. The previously uncatalogued visible star, dubbed "Star X", appears to be the tormented companion, not the pulsar itself, which although bright to radio astronomers is far too faint for even the most powerful optical telescopes.

Despite the battering it gets from its rapacious neighbour, the companion star looks rather ordinary when seen from Earth, 2,600 light-years away. It is about as bright as similar stars elsewhere, so the predations of the invisible neutron star cannot be making it hot. The researchers conclude that X-rays or low

energy gamma rays are blowing away the surface layers of Star X without heating it up much.

This stellar carnage will go unnoticed by even the most sophisticated amateur astronomer: an incredible degree of technical sophistication is needed to see Star X at all, and matching it with the coordinates of PSR 1957+20 to establish that the one is the counterpart of the other is harder still.

But watching the miniature blaze as each Perseid meteorite burns up in the atmosphere, one can perhaps more easily imagine a whole star, 2,600 light-years away towards the centre of the Galaxy, being consumed by a similar fate.

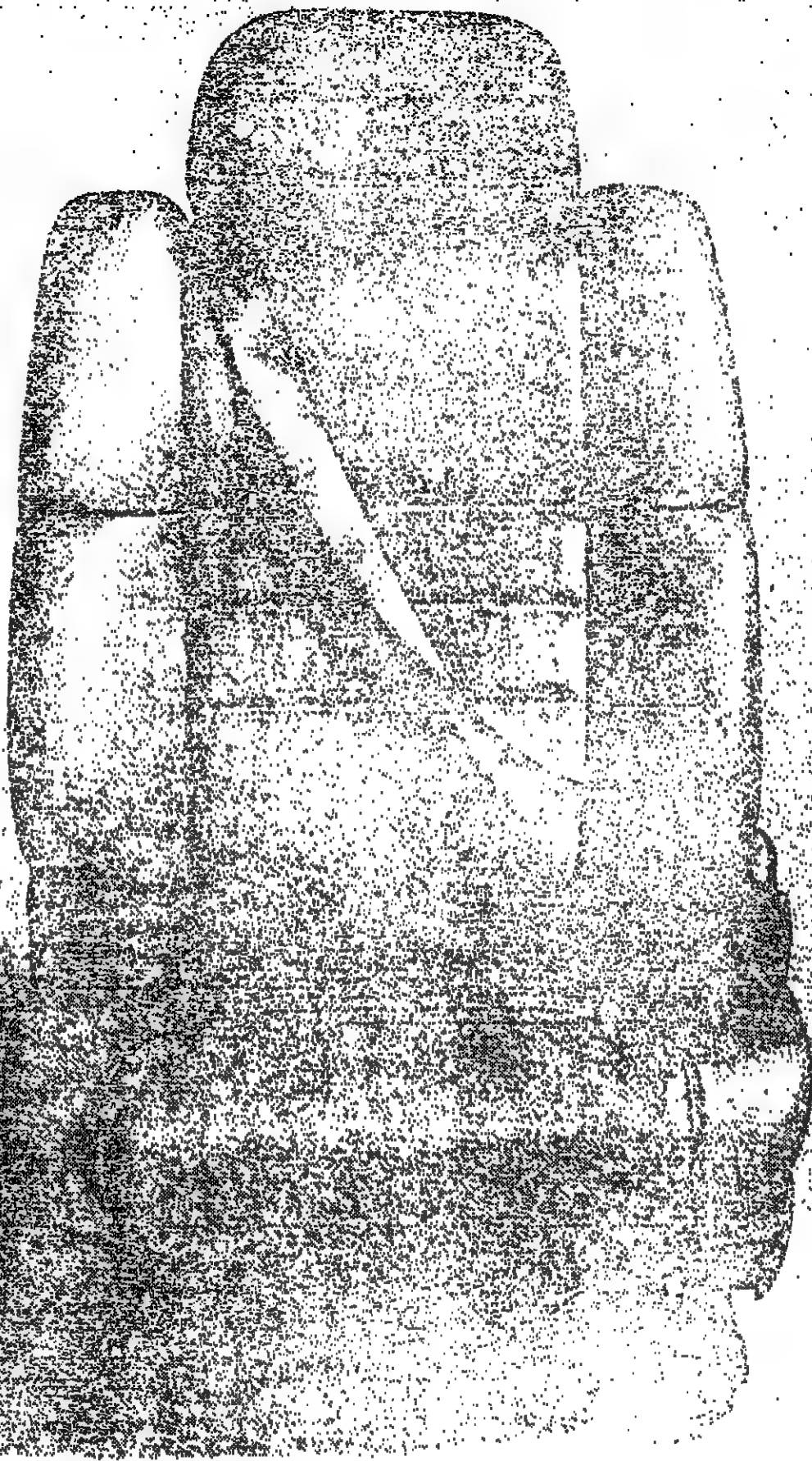
Henry Gee

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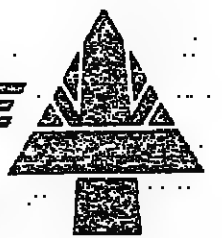
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TIMES DIARY DAVID WALKER

The First Division Association must be one of the very few trade unions where, on a nod and a wink basis, the Security Service approves the general secretary. Sorry, put that another way. The FDA must be one of the few trade unions where the executive committee knows for a fact that some of the general secretary takes place. Curzon Street will not, however, be losing much sleep over the short-list for the succession to John Ward at the union, which organizes civil servants from higher executive officer up.

MIS doesn't in the event have much to do, especially since the FDA's office is overlooked by the Special Branch's at New Scotland Yard. Two of the short-listed candidates, Sue Corby and Derek Stobbs, are FDA officials. The other three do not pose many problems, unless membership of the Labour Party is nowadays considered subversive.

Two are from the white-collar end of the union world, including Jon Akker, the deputy at the Association of University Teachers. The fifth is Jim Murphy, currently a member of Stanley Clinton Davis's cabinet in Brussels. Murphy, to be fair, had his application in before Mrs Thatcher announced the summary dispatch of Clinton Davis: he, with David Lipsey, former editor of *New Society*, and a cast of thousands, is also running for the £30,000-a-year job heading Lady Blackstone's think tank.

Ward himself, who ran the Bank of England's staff association before the FDA, is off to indulge a lifelong passion by becoming head of development at Opera North in Leeds. Candidates for his job could do a lot worse than a quick read of Kobbe's since, although Lord Armstrong has gone, the quickest way to break down mandarin reserve during pay negotiations is still a discussion about where the accents go in *Katya Kabanova*.

The scorecard in the DHSS divorce now looks like this. John Moore was given, as permanent secretary, the junior, if more spirited, of the pair of permanent secretaries at DHSS, Michael Patridge. Kenneth Clarke won the redoubtable Romola Christopherson as his press secretary; Moore the number two in the Department of Employment's information office. Moore has done particularly well in the battle for accommodation. Not only has he avoided exile to the frozen wastes of the Elephant and Castle and gets to stay in Richmond Terrace in Whitehall; he keeps his upper office, with its good views. Clarke is on the floor below.

This week's conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Public Records Office opened by the Lord Chancellor was one of the last official functions of the Keeper of Public Records, Dr Geoffrey Martin, before he retires. Martin, a professional historian, came to the PRO from the University of Leicester, but he hands over in October to Michael Roper, at present the deputy in charge of the PRO at Kew. Roper's appointment has given official record-keepers much pleasure, if only because it shows the top job is still open to civil servants.

Mrs Thatcher arrived home this week to a Downing Street in the throes of refurbishment. The entire suite of official rooms is being painted and plastered during the summer break. The street furniture has been restored, too. Opposite Number 10 the old police watch-house built in a niche in the wall of the Foreign Office has been done up in a suitably regal colour scheme — its columns now shine in blue and gold.

BARRY FANTONI



'Have you got something called The Unbearable Lateness of Being?'

Some people view Civil Service lawyers as second-rate people doing a dull, routine job, says James Nursaw, the Home Office lawyer who is about to become head of the legal profession in the government. Nursaw is taking over from Sir John Bailey as Treasury Solicitor, part of whose function is to oversee government law. Naturally he doesn't share that view, though he is anxious about how many young lawyers Whitehall is managing to attract these days, when soliciting in the City pays so much more.

One of his legacies is a rate of applications for judicial review of government approaching 400 per year — judicial review being one of the main ways legal citizens can get back at Whitehall administration. The more cases which go against the Government the more the quality of legal advice falls under suspicion.

Nursaw admits that many applications for judicial review are down to the Home Office, stemming from immigration cases. The trend to review worries him. "Leave is given for review too easily in too many cases," he says — a pregnant remark from this canny lawyer. The Treasury Solicitor's team is effectively the biggest solicitors' firm in the country. It does conveyancing on government property, advises the Treasury on points of law, oversees the lawyers in Whitehall departments and briefs barristers in the Crown's civil cases.

Nursaw says he has never wanted to do any other kind of legal work. The barrister is bought by one side; the solicitor answers to his client. Only in the Civil Service, he says, do lawyers have a more objective role.

Nine weeks ago the idea that freelance diplomacy conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury might lead to the release of the hostages in Beirut would have seemed absurdly optimistic. Since then there have been a dozen significant diplomatic or political developments affecting Anglo-Iranian relations, of which Dr Runcie has been responsible for nearly half.

It came as no great surprise, therefore, that when a senior official of the Iranian Foreign Ministry arrived in Britain on Wednesday he headed not for the Foreign Office but for Lambeth Palace.

The enigmatic statements issued yesterday both by Lambeth Palace and the Iranian Embassy served only to confirm that matters are at a delicate stage. After two meetings with Mr Raza Said Mohammadi, Dr Runcie boarded a plane for Philadelphia leaving behind a host of unanswered questions. A few hours later a British diplomat, David Reddaway, was heading for Tehran to test the diplomatic waters.

There is little doubt in the minds of the group of MPs who travelled to Iran at Dr Runcie's request in June — the first of his

Andrew McEwen on why the hostages' hopes lie with Dr Runcie

The Archbishop's game

private initiatives — that Mohammadi came to Britain to discuss the hostages. Their view is that the Iranians would not have sent him if it was not to talk about the hostages.

The MPs noticed on that trip that some of the leaders knew little of the British system, and it might be thought that Mohammadi's action in talking to a religious rather than political leader showed a misunderstanding of the British constitution. Coming from a country led by mullahs, he might have assumed that Dr Runcie enjoyed direct influence in Downing Street. However, he is far too sophisticated to make such a mistake, even if the same cannot be said for all of his superiors.

What is most likely is that Iranian moderates understand the distinction well, but find Dr Runcie convenient for domestic political reasons. Hojatoleslam

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's wily parliamentary speaker and acting head of the armed forces, wants to secure the hostages' release as soon as possible. He sees this as an essential step towards better relations with the West and a revival of Iran's wider fortunes.

But Rafsanjani does not control Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian group in Beirut thought to be holding Terry Waite and the other hostages. This power is believed to lie with radical elements who will not act without the approval of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Rafsanjani needs to be able to convince his detractors that obtaining the hostages' freedom would serve Iranian interests — which is where Dr Runcie comes in. Margaret Thatcher has always said she will never negotiate a hostage deal, but Dr Runcie's meeting with

Mohamedi might be seen in Tehran as an alternative diplomatic route.

This line of thinking lay behind Dr Runcie's decision to send the Bishop of Cyprus, the Right Rev John Brown, to Beirut 10 days ago to talk to Christian Maronite and Armenian church leaders. He asked them to try to find out what had become of Iranian hostages captured by Christian militiamen in Beirut six years ago. Rafsanjani's faction interpreted this as a positive gesture — as Dr Runcie hoped they would.

So the Archbishop's role seems to be to enable Tehran to use its influence with the hostage-takers without loss of face among the radicals. He is not alone in understanding that the Foreign Office is probably using him in the same way. Its assertion that it had nothing to do with Mohammadi's visit ("We seem to

have been rather left out of it," an official said yesterday) should not be taken as literal truth.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Dr Runcie understand each other well. And it is most unlikely that Sir Geoffrey does not approve of the Lambeth Palace actions, and know of every move in advance. In fact the Foreign Office has long wanted to move faster in the restoration of normal relations with Iran, but has been held back by Downing Street.

Opinions vary as to why this should be. One view from the left is that the Prime Minister has been excessively anxious to please Ronald Reagan. Others trace Mrs Thatcher's lack of enthusiasm to her concern that there should be no appearance of doing a deal.

Whatever the differences between Geoffrey Howe and Mar-

garet Thatcher, it would be wrong to suppose that she has been left out in the cold by Dr Runcie's unconventional diplomacy. She was directly responsible for one of the 12 steps which Anglo-Iranian relations have climbed since June 19, when Dr Runcie's parliamentary group set off for Tehran. This was a letter which she wrote to David Waite, brother of Terry Waite, which was judiciously leaked with great impact.

It restated the Government's policy on Iran in much more conciliatory terms than previously, and was immediately seized on by the Rafsanjani faction as proof of a Thatcher U-turn. The letter was rushed around from Downing Street to Lambeth Palace on July 27, the day after the Government decided to send Mr Reddaway to Tehran (though the decision was not announced until Monday).

The overall picture which emerges is one of a three-pronged diplomatic approach involving Mrs Thatcher, Howe and Runcie, with the latter making most of the running. It serves to release Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan, few will grudge him the glory.

Václav Havel

Where Brezhnev still rules



The more it changes... Brezhnev had control of Husák (centre), and the laws of survival dictate that he has control over Czechoslovakia's new leader, Jakes (right)

The people of Czechoslovakia observe the ideological balancing act of their political leadership with apparent mirth. After all, it is quite funny to watch people who have spent their lives suppressing freedom, nailing their colours to the mast of freedom, for the sake of suppressing it.

foundation to palpable nonsense: i.e., that the present Soviet reforms cannot be compared with the Czechoslovak reforms of 1968: that the present half-baked Czechoslovak *perestroika* has also got nothing in common with the 1968 reforms, and that the Soviet intervention was quite justified.

I doubt if the present Soviet leaders can be unduly gratified by this misplaced defence of Brezhnev's arrogant superpower policy, but they are forced — out of loyalty and solidarity with their Czechoslovak allies — to adopt the same attitude. The trouble is that they can hardly export their "new thinking" in the same way that the "old thinking" used to be carried abroad; that is, by tank.

And so we get a paradoxical situation: The Czechoslovak prisoners of the Brezhnevite ideology are turning even Gorbachov — at least as far as this is concerned — into Brezhnev's prisoner too. But Gorbachov has too many other problems to handle without wanting to risk another source of instability in the Soviet sphere of influence. And so he is forced to grit his teeth, keep quiet on the matter of the 1968 occupation, and indulge in fraternal hugs with Milos Jakes.

The people of Czechoslovakia

observe the ideological balancing act of their political leadership with apparent mirth. After all, it really is quite funny to watch people who have spent their entire lives suppressing freedom verbally nailing their colours to the mast of freedom, for the sake of suppressing it in real life. And everybody understands perfectly clearly why they have to go on doing it: if they really were to loosen the reins, then it follows they would become the first victims of the fresh breeze that would blow through Czechoslovakia.

But amused interest is nevertheless many miles away from social involvement. Czechoslovak society is still very, very cautious. When we in Charter 77, the human rights group, occasionally meet up at the Czechoslovak-Polish border with our Polish friends from Solidarity and they ask us how many people back us, I feel like answering that whereas Solidarity may have the backing of

millions of people, we have merely the backing of millions of ears. By listening to foreign radio stations people follow the work of Charter 77 (and not only of Charter) with interest and sympathy. But they would think very carefully before publicly voicing their support for Charter, or for that matter before stating any opinion whatsoever.

Czechs and Slovaks are not enthusiasts, they don't get excited too often. In 1968 they did find enthusiasm for something, they acted as emancipated citizens, but they were persecuted for their enthusiasm for the next 20 years. After that bitter experience their present wariness is more than understandable.

Nevertheless, I would not say that over that 20 years the atmosphere in society has not changed at all. People are noticeably beginning to show more daring. There are many in-

stances of this, from the enormous upsurge of unofficial cultural activities, to half a million signatures on a petition demanding greater religious freedom. Events in the Soviet Union, Hungary and after all, even in Poland, encourage this.

The spectacle of the present leadership, forced to tiptoe through a minefield — far from being a sign of confidence in their totalitarian power — evidence of their confusion and panic and is, therefore, encouraging. It is easier to act against a pathetic ruler who is constantly tying himself in knots than against one who evokes nothing but fear.

The chasm that is opening up between Soviet policies and the policies in Czechoslovakia therefore deepens and brings into relief another chasm, that is also growing deeper: between the ideology of the present leadership in Czechoslovakia and the general spirit in the country. Both these chasms can go on

deepening for quite a time, but presumably not forever. Sooner or later something has to give; the government of a developed and culturally aware country in the centre of Europe cannot for ever go against the direction that the course of events is taking and against the aspirations of most of its people.

What will happen, when it will happen, and how it will happen, no one knows. There can be no reliable forecasts in totalitarian societies, where real social movements are hidden deep below the surface of visible events. Therefore, no one can tell which chance snowball will set off an avalanche.

The regime does not know it either. That is why its police force sees every snowball as the dangerous one and that is why it is so often on red alert. At present it is on alert because of the 20th anniversary of the Soviet invasion. I doubt whether a simple anniversary will be that special snowball. But even in this case I see the uneasiness of the rulers as a good omen. It shows that even in this uninteresting satellite some movement towards a better state of affairs cannot be ruled out.

The author is a playwright, who was imprisoned for human rights activities. He lives in Prague.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

The Holloway eye-opener

The prison officers taking industrial action at Holloway Women's Prison say that they are primarily motivated by concern about security. Perhaps that is true, though I doubt it. More likely it is power and money.

What is true is that the prison is functioning without them. In fact it is running better. Nor does there seem to be a problem with security, despite the fact that there are some 200 fewer officers supervising the locking of prisoners, and that the inmates are actually being allowed to move freely about the jail.

According to Press reports, the prisoners are well behaved. They are corroborated by accounts given to me privately by discerning and experienced prison visitors. There do not seem to be the problems that the warders feared. On the argument that lies behind their industrial action we should now be seeing vicious attacks on staff and mass break-outs. Neither has occurred.

Instead the prisoners are doing the washing up. They are quietly preparing lunch. They are doing all the kinds of things that they should always be doing, as a matter of routine, both to help earn their keep and for therapeutic purposes. It should not really be a reason for comment, a cause of excitement and delight, that they are actually being allowed to help run their own daily lives. The child-like pleasure that the women display at being allowed to associate with each other and participate in common household tasks is, itself, a condemnation of the regime that exists when the officers are working normally.

They should never be allowed to work normally again. The atmosphere in the prison now is said to be calm and relaxed. One

of the prisoners has been quoted as saying that there is less tension since the officers' absconded. A visitor to the prison confirms this. She tells me that the atmosphere is "totally different to what it normally is. There's no one shouting and screaming. No one's locked in." Even the women normally confined in the dismal psychiatric unit have been released from their dreary cells. "It's quite wonderful," she says.

But that is how it should always be. The women have already been punished by being deprived of their liberty. They are not in prison to be punished, still less dominated, terrified and brutalized. There is no need for a tyranny of those in uniform dangling keys.

The longer the dispute continues, and the more open the Home Secretary allows the system to become, then the more people will realize the enormity of what is wrong with our prison system. The prison officers will also become more vulnerable and their position indefensible. It is true that prison officers have a great deal to complain about. Many of them, but by no means all, work in extremely unpleasant conditions for long hours. They are often at risk of personal injury. It is not a particularly attractive job.

But while prison officers do have legitimate grievances it also has to be acknowledged that £15,000 a year is not a bad financial reward for someone who need not have so much as an O level, and little in the way of previous training.

It also has to be admitted that the prison officers are often the cause of much that is wrong with our penal system. They are usually to be found in the

forefront of the campaign for sterner and more punitive regimes. They are the first to voice resentment at any suggestion of softness towards prisoners.

The national officers of their association, especially its sensible and thoughtful general secretary, David Evans, do it is true, often advocate moderate reforms. They have begun to attach themselves to good causes. But they are invariably out-faced and out-maneuvred by the more aggressive and semi-independent local branches. More than any other organization the Prison Officers' Association exhibits characteristics of the tail wagging the dog.

And a very unattractive and negative tail it is. The prison officers have obstructed almost every recent progressive reform. They blocked the introduction of the experiment to end the censorship of prisoners' letters and to install pay telephones in category C prisons. They said it was about security. The experiment was killed, if not in the name, then certainly in the pursuit, or rather maintenance, of power and overtime pay.

The same kind of consideration lies behind the fact that prisoners are kept in police cells, that others are locked up for 23 hours a day and denied access to education, work and recreational facilities though the classrooms are open and the staff waiting. It is why family visits have not been properly developed.

They say they want to see the introduction of a more positive regime for inmates and staff and a greater welfare role for themselves. Yet on every turn their gut reactions belie their well-chosen words. The POA and its members make the most secretive Home Office and the

most right-wing Tory Home Secretary appear as raging liberals.

The present Home Secretary seems to be ready to take them on. He should. No trade union member, however tough, should be allowed to write his own pay cheque. He should certainly not be allowed to determine the rights of others and control their behaviour. Men and women without qualifications or training should not be allowed to arrogate to themselves managerial functions merely because they have brute power.

The Home Secretary does not have to be macho about this. There is no need for him to take any of the frenzied advice he has been offered about disciplining or suspending officers. All that he has to do is to start to market the truth. It has always been accepted by most of those involved in the criminal justice system that, if only the public knew just a little of what was going on in the prisons, reform would happen quickly.

Douglas Hurd has, belatedly, realized this. All and sundry are now being invited to Holloway. The tactic is working. Without the protection of secrecy the prison officers have already been shown to have run a punitive regime and to be less important than they pretend. They will now be proved to have lost their case and public sympathy.

But the new openness practised by the Home Secretary, and first promised by Lord Whitelaw, cannot be abandoned when this dispute is over. That will be far too cynical, even though the Home Secretary must know that it will now start to work against him. But it will be for the benefit of the whole system.

AUGUST 12 ON THIS DAY 1789



The random notes that follow show that the gossip column is as old as journalism itself. The attack on the Bastille referred to in the cricket match was a re-enactment of the event, showing at Asley's theatre.

A MATCH OF CRICKET

On Wednesday last a match of Cricket was played at Hackney, between the Gentlemen of the Club at that place, and the young Gentlemen of a school in the neighbourhood. The former, consisting of two grandfathers, four fathers, and such as had passed their prime, offered a challenge to an equal number of the latter, which was readily accepted. The juvenile appearance of the scholars, contrasted with the aged consequence of their opponents, afforded much mirth to the spectators. Victory at last declared itself in favour of the grown Gentlemen, who immediately shouldered their bats, and, with Mr D — at their head (who is lately returned from the attack of the Bastille, and who had formerly commanded in the Hackney Association, and did great service upon an equal memorable occasion at Hoxton) playing on the violin, "See the conquering hero comes", their accompaniment, where they were received by some Ladies, who presented them with cockades, which was a representation of Hercules in the act of overcoming an infant, and depriving him of his rattle, with the motto, "Veni, vidi, vici". The Company afterwards partook of an entertainment, consisting of tea, lemonade, milk and water, and other refreshing delicacies. An oration of some length was afterwards made by their Treasurer, who gave a grand display of his rhetorical powers.

There is to be another trial of skill this day.

Sir Joshua REYNOLDS paints no more portraits: his eyes begin to be unequal to continual employment; so that the representation of past times, instead of living characters, will engage the occasional efforts of his pencil, whatever they may be.

We have heard much of the great pomp and parade of the Duchess of Cumberland. On Saturday her Royal Highness gave a great instance to the contrary, for she was seen walking in Pall Mall alone, without even a footman following, and knocking at Mr CONWAY's door herself.

The good fortune Lord LUCAN has had in marrying two of his daughters so well, makes up in some degree for the discomfort they felt on the conduct of the eldest, who, happily for her, died a few years ago.

A few years ago, a certain Law Lord sent his respects to Counsellor —, begging to be favoured with the company of himself and wife in the afternoon.

They went accordingly, and after a little chat his Lordship invited the Lady to take a look at the house on this occasion the husband was quite forgot.

The latter waited with great impatience for upwards of half an hour, and at length went in quest of his wife, whom he found in a room in the farthest part of the house, in a visible state of derangement.

He returned to the parlour, whither his Lordship followed him, and the Counsellor entered into very warm expostulations, to which the only reply was a pull at the bell.

The servants came, and were desired to order the Counsellor's coach instantly to the door.

His Lordship then rose, dragged his friend by the skirt of his coat to the door, gave him a kick on the breech, and whispered, "You shall be a Judge," which actually proved to be the case in the course of a few days.



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THE GENERALS OF RANGOON

The long-suffering people of Burma appear to have had enough; enough of the brutal military dictatorship, which for 26 years has kept them in isolated penury; enough of poverty in a land of rich resources; enough of state socialism in an area of the world where entrepreneurial talents abound; enough of the security forces who open fire with automatic weapons on crowds of unarmed protesters. The continuing bitter street disturbances in Rangoon and 28 other cities show a determination to be rid of the gang of ageing generals who first seized power in 1962 and since then have slowly but surely ruined the country.

When General Ne Win finally saw the writing on the wall last month and handed over to U Sein Lwin the change was not enough. U Sein Lwin was a private soldier in the battalion commanded by Lt-Col Ne Win in 1962. He rapidly made his name as a determined scourge of the new regime's opponents. His efficient cruelty has not been forgotten, still less forgiven.

His relationship to U Ne Win is that of pupil to master, one that is honoured in Burmese culture and one that leads people to believe that power has not in fact been fully transferred. The common cry on the streets this week is that Sein Lwin must go.

But 26 years of one-party rule — in effect rule by an armed oligarchy — have successfully eliminated any effective opposition figures to whom the people can turn. There are no trade union leaders. Although the students are heading the present disturbances, there is no identifiable leadership of the student movement. If there had been an identifiable leadership, it would long ago have been arrested, left to rot in jail, or worse.

There is little danger of the Burmese Communist Party taking over. One half of it has been eliminated and the other half has been taken to the hills. There the recruits have come largely from the hill tribes, and they would have no more appeal on the Irrawaddy plain than would the IRA if they attempted to seize power in London.

Perhaps the best hope for the Burmese people will come from a surprising source. When General Ne Win and his cronies took power, they were soldiers untrained except by experience. Private Sein Lwin could become

Brigadier Sein Lwin, without much formal instruction in the way of Clausewitz or staff college. But today's brigadiers and colonels and majors, are educated men. They have been trained in their profession, and have also gained experience fighting the secessionists in the border provinces.

They provide an elite which could be encouraged to salvage the country from its recent past. Thus the news that some soldiers have been refusing to fire on demonstrators is much the most significant of this week's events.

If the present Government genuinely wishes to avoid mutiny or civil war it will have to act quickly. If U Sein Lwin were to hand over power, the present Defence Minister, General Saw Maung, would be a crucial figure even though he has a reputation as a poor politician. Another important figure might be U Kyaw Htin, a veteran former army chief with some degree of popular appeal.

If a transfer were acceptable it would have to be backed up by the full implementation of the economic reforms put in train by the new Government before it was overtaken by the present street violence. These were as dramatic as was the decision of U Ne Win to step down.

Free enterprise was once more allowed. Foreign participation in all areas of the economy was invited. Exporters were to be allowed to keep half of their foreign earnings, which, if not much, was certainly better than the nothing they had been allowed hitherto and could have rescued the rice trade from last year's virtual collapse.

There are indications that such a programme would be acceptable in Burma. Yesterday there were widespread rumours that a change of government would be announced in a nationwide broadcast by the political leadership. As the rumours spread, so the rioting diminished.

But, when it came, the broadcast by the prime minister and defence minister was a disappointment. Instead of announcing a change of government, they simply urged people to obey the advice of the Buddhist priests who had been wheeled out the day before to recommend obedience and a return to work. This remains advice that stands little chance of being accepted.

NOT WITHOUT A SPARK

The Test and County Cricket Board meets today to try to revive the famous ashes of English Test cricket. It is unlikely to be a meeting of quite the urgency which has been urged upon it. The old men of the game have all been here before. Eighteen Tests without a win is not a record to merit congratulatory chinking of glasses. This summer's rout by the West Indies was a plain embarrassment. But glasses will still, we would hazard, be chinked.

After all, it can be costly recalled, the collapse of England's batsmen before demon foreign bowling has been a familiar feature of post-war sporting history: not even Hutton and Washbrook, Edrich, Compton and their friends could stand up to Bradman's Australians in 1948. It is not so much that, in Kipling's phrase, mere "dazzled fools" have worn their England helmets at the wickets this year. It is more that the defeats have come at the hands of West Indians whose cricketing gifts are rare and recognized throughout the civilized (that is, cricket-playing) world.

And cricket is not the only sport to dash recent hopes of national glory. England's performance in the European Championship of football looked third-rate beside that of other countries. The Welsh, though the best of the home rugby teams this year, were well beaten by New Zealand on their last demoralizing tour.

So much for pink gin and reasoned mitigation. Those cricket leaders who truly care for the sport should find insufficient here to argue for doing nothing at all. Recent defeats have been unusually severe. Moreover, they have happened only in the five-day Test matches. In the less prestigious one-day games the record remains good. Not so long ago, the England team was celebrating a 3-0 victory against the same West Indians who destroyed them in the Tests.

A number of possible causes for this weakness have been outlined in *The Times* this week. They include the state of the game in schools, the condition of pitches, the dependence on overseas players at county level and the plethora of limited-over games. To which

of these should the TCCB turn its promptest attention?

The number of overseas cricketers playing here certainly takes some of the interest from the Test match programme. At one time a tour by the West Indies brought a squad of fresh faces and talents to this country. Now, half the team is over here already.

This helps them adapt to English conditions (or rather makes it harder than in the past for us to exploit their problems in adaptation). But the argument that they are holding up the development of young English players is hard to sustain. Our strength in the one-day game would suggest that home-grown talent is still there.

It is in the development of that talent for five-day matches that the county game falls short. In a five-day Test a batsman needs patience and concentration. He has to "build" a big innings with care and skill — not sacrifice all in the interests of speed. Poor pitches throughout the county grounds make it more difficult than ever for batsmen to master the different technique.

One answer to this is for the game's leaders to insist on better pitches and to impose penalties on counties which fail to do so. This would be in the interests of fairness if nothing else. The umpires would decide whether a pitch was up to standard and report the offenders to the board for fining or other treatment.

Another remedy might be the introduction of a complete four-day championship game. Although this would be difficult before 1990 because next summer's programme has already been drafted, many batsmen think it would give them the experience they now so clearly lack.

The TCCB will no doubt ponder these and other considerations today. Despite the clamour for change, it will claim legitimate satisfaction from the level of care which so many show for their deliberations. As long as people argue and complain, as long as they criticize selectors, players and pitches, England's ashes are not without a spark.

Bulldozing history

From Mr Stephen Drake-Jones
Sir, All is not lost for Sir Charles Rawley and the Society for the Preservation of the Field of the Battle of Naseby (report, early editions, August 2) regardless of the High Court ruling in favour of the Department of Transport. At least they have the chance to appeal, thus being able to continue the fight.

Not so here in Spain. A motorway is being ploughed through the very heart of the battlefield of Talavera where General Wellesley earned the title "Wellington" and where thousands of British, Span-

ish and French dead had lain in peace until the earth-movers arrived.

No debates, no public hearings, not even a reply from the Ministerio de Transporte to our letters. The opening takes place just before the completion of a super highway through another historical battlefield of the Peninsular War, Vitoria.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN DRAKE-JONES
(Chairman, The Wellington Society),
Calle Padilla 45,
Madrid, Spain.
August 3.

Demise of a car

From Dr J. H. K. Fitton
Sir, I was not surprised to read about the Afrikaner's demise (report, August 5). In 1974 three of us drove due north from Livingston to Leeds via Lubumbashi, Kindu, Kisangani, Bangui, Kano, Agades and across the Sahara through Tamanrasset to Algiers.

We used my ordinary two-wheel drive Toyota Crown saloon with 50,000 miles on the clock. The only modification was an extra 20-gallon fuel tank behind the rear seats.

In contrast to the Africa's many mechanical problems we

never really broke down. The roads, especially in Zaïre, were very poor. Holes were not filled in after lorries had been dug out and there was little sign of general repair work.

I suspect that the transport needs of the so-called independent African countries will continue to be met mainly by the Japanese motor industry, not by elongated wooden dune buggies.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. K. FITTON,
26 Cranford Road,
Barton Seagrave,
Northamptonshire.
August 5.

Cure for gazumping?

From Mr Trevor M. Aldridge
Sir, In the course of suggesting that estate agents can eliminate gazumping, Mr Bruges (August 3) casts aside the possibility of universal structural surveys, "on account of the enormous liability this incurs". But surely, doing a survey does not incur any liability; it is doing it negligently that puts a surveyor's pocket in peril.

A structural survey is a prudent precaution for any property purchaser, whether or not he is liable to be gazumped. Anyone geared to a modern market-forces philosophy would expect the purveyors of a useful service to be trumpeting its benefits and competing to offer them.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR M. ALDRIDGE,
Birkitt Hill House, Offley,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

From here to where?

From P. A. Mitchell
Sir, Many signposts offer an "alternative route" to an unstated destination. Are these to help our journey, or to remind us that in the most habitual of actions we must make a choice?

Yours faithfully,
P. A. MITCHELL,
8 Kingston Court,
West Hallam, Derby.

Snag in shopping for surgery

From Dr D. E. A. Luxton
Sir, Discussion about the future of the NHS has led to two suggestions. First, that patients should use hospital facilities in other parts of the country when treatment is not readily available locally. Second, that the outcome of hospital care should be publicized so patients can compare hospitals.

The difficulties of applying consumerism to health care are illustrated by the histories of two patients who died in their local district hospital.

The first chose to have a hip replacement operation in London (as an NHS patient). Before his discharge he began to cough up blood but was nevertheless allowed home. He was admitted to hospital and died.

The second patient elected to have a prostate operation at a private hospital. The procedure was complicated by septicemia, with improvement after treatment. He was discharged home. He later became unwell and entered hospital. The patient failed to respond to treatment and died.

The outcome of both cases might have been different had the initial hospital team been able to retain responsibility for follow-up. They could have acted quickly when the complications of surgery occurred by offering readmission to hospital.

In any public analysis of hospital activity both cases would register as successful outcomes for the hospitals providing the initial treatment but count against the one where they died. Such information would be misleading but could in future be used by patients to choose a hospital for their operation.

Shopping around for surgery has its dangers if complications arise afterwards.
Yours faithfully,
D. E. A. LUXTON,
86 Gayton Road,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
August 1.

Starving seabirds

From Mr Robert J. W. Poole
Sir, Many of your readers must have been shocked to read the article "Shetland seabird chicks starve" (August 4). The seabirds of our more desolate coastlines add a beauty and majesty to the scene, particularly of course when the elements are at their worst.

Last summer I watched a group of fishermen on the rocks in West Penwith, Cornwall. They were being attacked by terns, trying desperately to snatch the sand-eel baits used by the fishermen, and were clearly driven by extremes of hunger.

There is apparently no scientific evidence so far that the lack of food in the seas off Shetland is causing this disaster. There must be many who have a shrewd hunch that whereas our forefathers cheerfully killed entire species with guns, we have now refined the system to kill them off agonisingly by hunger.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. W. POOLE,
Sancroft, 26 Austen Way,
Chalfont St Peter,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
August 6.

Back in the fold

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Woodhouse
Sir, Surely the 13 men from 13 houses in Woolley, Somerset, who returned successfully from the First World War (referred to in Sir Gordon Cox's letter of August 3) must have served in the 13th Light Infantry (or The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) as it was then known)?

Members of the regiment often referred to themselves as "lucky for some".
Yours faithfully,
R. G. WOODHOUSE
(Regimental Secretary)
(Somerset),
The Light Infantry,
14 Mount Street,
Taunton, Somerset.
August 4.

On the run

From Mrs Jean Le Maître
Sir, If Mrs Parker-Jervis (August 5) were to travel amongst the bosky lanes of Cornwall, as we have just done, she might come across the following notice: "Little monsters on the loose". After passing, and enjoying, this notice for some years now, it was only this year that we also noticed that the garden upon whose wall this notice is nailed contains quantities of garden gnomes.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN LE MAÎTRE,
20 Fulwood Hall Lane,
Preston, Lancashire.
August 5.

A little Greek

From Dr O. T. P. K. Dickinson
Sir, As a classicist who became an archaeologist and now finds that concentration is needed to avoid pronouncing ancient Greek like modern Greek, I have some sympathy with Mrs Stavropoulos (August 3) but the fact remains: ancient Greek was not pronounced like modern Greek, was pronounced like modern English. The ancient Greeks would hardly have taken the trouble to spell differently various groups of vowels that are now pronounced the same way if it had been.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts about the grain supplies

From the Editor of Farming News
Sir, If, as you argue in your leader of August 9, it is best for Britain to support free agricultural trade, then why do you not question the decision of the European Community in July to impose a quota on European grain exports?

Is not the American drought, the Chinese drought, and continuing Soviet inefficiency not a heaven-sent opportunity for the EC to clear out its so-called surpluses?

Instead you seek to slap the wrists of agricultural lobbyists who might use the opportunity of global crop failure to say, "I told you so".

Many British grain growers, who, contrary to your assertion, do not want to be propped up with taxpayers' money, are deeply suspicious of Government and EC intentions. When over 60 per cent of the grain harvest has to be sold in the months of August and September to appease thousands of anxious bank managers, the

price farmers can expect is pushed artificially low.

No one in the farming community wants to see a repetition of what happened last year, when 170,000 tonnes of wheat was imported into the UK from, of all places, Saudi Arabia at almost double the price achieved domestically.

The Government's efforts to encourage farmers into set-aside are viewed with equal suspicion. Why should British growers, with some of the lowest production costs in the world, consider following good grain-growing land?

American scientists, among others, are now seriously concerned that the "greenhouse" effect caused by the worldwide burning of fossil fuels could mean that this year's drought is not a one-off.

Your plea for "diversity of supply" sounds lovely, but are you sure that it will always exist?
Yours faithfully,
MARCUS OLIVER, Editor,
Farming News,
30 Calderwood Street, SE18.

Food crisis in Sudan

From Dr T. P. Martin
Sir, Your report today (August 9) of the disastrous flooding in Sudan made distressing reading and was particularly poignant for me. Earlier this year, sponsored by the British Council, I visited the Faculty of Education, Atbara, which is close to El Damer. I was accompanied by a Sudanese student who is studying for a higher degree at Southampton University.

The people were struggling against great odds at that time,

and the present events will make many developments impossible. I am particularly concerned about the enormous difficulties in transporting food and resources around the country.

Your warm support of the people of Sudan in your editorial (August 9) was a great encouragement. I trust that the appeal fund is generously supported and can vouch for the needs it will meet.
Yours faithfully,
TERRY MARTIN,
The University of Southampton,
Department of Education,
Southampton SO9 5NH.

Baker's Soviet visit

From Mr Alexei Nikiforov
Sir, Apropos Mr David Tyler's report today (August 10), may I point out that the details of the official visit by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, including the Novosibirsk part of it, have been practically agreed upon.

The Soviet side had no difficulty whatsoever in arranging all that; neither, as far as we know,

had the British one. Indeed, both sides are, to use Mr Tyler's phrase, "anxious to produce concrete results" from this important visit.

No half-baked revelations can detract, I trust, from the significance of Mr Baker's visit, which is certainly meant to promote our cooperation.
Yours faithfully,
ALEXEI NIKIFOROV
(Counsellor),
Embassy of the USSR,
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.

War compensation

From Mrs Valmai Parry
Sir, With reference to the recent decision of the US Government to compensate Japanese Americans for internment during World War II (report, August 6), perhaps this is the time to raise the matter of compensation for victims of the Nazi occupation in Europe during that time.

We have a client, a Polish Catholic, who was taken by the Gestapo at the age of 14 into enforced labour; she spent the rest of the war in various concentration camps terminating at Belsen.

She first put in a claim for compensation in 1961, but since that date has only received a small sum of £550 from the United Nations as an *ex gratia* payment —

most of which was taken up by legal costs.

At present, after negotiations which we have been undertaking since 1986, we have reached an impasse with the West German Government. Although they agree her application was made on time and was mislaid and went to the wrong department, they are contending that it has now missed the deadline and the government department will not pay out unless she can prove serious lasting physical injury. She cannot — except for mental anguish, termination of schooling, loss of her youth, etc.

Yours faithfully,
VALMAI PARRY
(Bureau Manager),
Citizens Advice Bureau,
63 Church Street,
Flint, Clwyd.

Exam standards

From Mr S. Chattopadhyay
Sir, I am in the rather unusual position of having done both O-level and GCSE examinations in successive years. Last year, I offered mathematics, computer studies and English language as O levels, whilst this year I offered the majority of my subjects as GCSEs.

I feel that Miss Clare Oliver (July 30) was mistaken when she wrote about O-level candidates doing only two weeks of work before the examination. I found that it rather required about four weeks of preparation. However, I

did feel that the pressure, as a GCSE candidate, throughout the course was far greater than anything I experienced at O level.

In O level the emphasis was greater on factual information than principles. It was possible to learn the facts in a dash before the exam, as I had to for computer studies, whilst with GCSE the pressure is present throughout the two years due to the assessments that have to be made. This requires the principles and factual information to be learnt there and then.

I think that the GCSE is a better

'Leaner' levels

From Mr Warwick Hele
Sir, In his letter about the Higginson report (August 3) Dr Moore makes a significant point about the Government's policy on A and AS level. His concern is for the university entrance prospects of those who change their mind about their specialisms during their sixth-form course. He is quite right to stress that students who find that one of their AS-level subjects is more interesting than their A levels must not suffer if they wish to study that subject at university or polytechnic.

In a great many fields there will be no problem. Some subjects at university are not studied at school at all and for others the entry qualifications do not name the school subjects required. A range of combinations of A and AS levels chosen in accordance with the pupil's academic interests, would therefore be acceptable.

Instances where a particular A level is required, and where the sixth-former has changed his or her mind after embarking on the AS-level course, are not likely to be numerous. But they do, of course, represent some constraint

on choice. This potential disadvantage to a small minority has to be weighed against the advantage to the great majority of a flexible system geared to the wide variety of individual needs.

The two-tier arrangement of A and AS level is a more flexible way of meeting these diverse needs than the single tier involved in five equal A levels. It is natural that sixth-formers should want to devote more time to some subjects than others. This diversity of need is widely recognised elsewhere, in the French Baccalaureate and the German Abitur for instance. The International Baccalaureate, too, is a two-tier examination.

Dr Moore's point about premature specialisation and university entry requirements is important, but it can be met within the proposed pattern of A and AS level. Set against the background of sixth-form studies as a whole his concern is less central than it may appear to the objective of broadening the curriculum.

Yours sincerely,
WARWICK HELE
(formerly High Master, St Paul's School),
Hillside,
Hawkesdene Lane,
Shaftesbury, Dorset.

A Lambeth crux over violence

From the Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
Sir, What a muddle the Lambeth Conference got itself into by insisting that the Church is not pacifist while at the same time continuing to adhere to a pacifist Gospel. Full of good intentions, the conference (report, August 5) "understood" the situation of those, as in South Africa, who see no alternative to the use of violence in their effort to achieve freedom.

The 1988 Lambeth Conference evidently forgot that the 1978 conference declared that "the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel" — or else it decided that there are some evils which even Jesus could not overcome, again forgetting the 1978 Lambeth Conference, which said that

Jesus, through his death and resurrection, has already overcome all evil. He made evident that self-giving love, obedience to the way of the Cross, is the way to reconciliation in all relationships and conflicts.

By "understanding" the situation of South African freedom fighters, the Lambeth Conference at first failed to realise that this would offer a justification which the IRA would readily accept for its own increasingly evil tactics. By hastily passing a new resolution (report, August 6) condemning all violence in Ireland, the conference succeeded in suggesting that some violence used for political ends is more contradictory to the Gospel than other violence.

Until it is realised that the Christian message to the world is that the power of love must replace violence as the power which underlies all society and the rule of law, there will be neither peace in the world nor consistency in the Church.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON WILSON, Chairman,
Anglican Pacifist Fellowship,
As from: Centre for International Peacebuilding,
Wickham House,
10 Cleveland Way, E1.
August 8.

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy
Sir, You recently reported Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as saying that the Government is determined to beat the IRA, and Mrs Thatcher has been voicing much the same sentiments. But on *Panorama* last February General Sir James Glover, former C-in-C Land Forces UK and Head of Military Intelligence, declared unequivocally that the IRA could never be defeated militarily.

Does not future British policy in Northern Ireland depend on the resolving of these two apparently contradictory views?

Yours faithfully,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown, Avebury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
August 8.

examining; it certainly has more relevance to life than O level. My only grudge was that the exam was badly implemented into the education system, though I think things will become easier with time.

With reference to Miss Kirsty Woodard (August 5), I do not think standards have changed; it is only the emphasis of study, from factual to principle.

Yours faithfully,
S. CHATTOPADHYAY,
69 Gordon Road,
Corringham,
Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

Pronounced difficulty

From the Earl of Cork and Orrery
Sir, Mr Michael Wolf (August 5) says that English-speaking people will always go to Rome and Munich and not to "Roma" or "München". I expect they will, but it is worth asking, in what that resolute word-warrior the late Lord Conesford used to call "the sacred cause of illiteracy" — how about Majorca?

This, pronounced "Madjorca", is the English name of the Balearic island spelt Mallorca and pronounced (by Spaniards) "Mayorca". But as I am constantly hearing English-speaking people saying "Mayorca" but never "Madjorca", I suspect that at least some of these people are really showing off their "knowledge" that a Spaniard, confronted with the spelling "Mayorca", would naturally pronounce it "Mayorca". But he wouldn't, would he? He would pronounce it "Mahorca".

In the even more sacred cause of literacy, can something be done about this? Perhaps BBC and IRA could be encouraged to tell their newscasters and anchorpersons that M-a-j-o-r-c-a spells Majorca? Yours faithfully,
CORK & ORRERY,
Flint House, Heyshott,
Hilhurst, Sussex.
August 8.

From Mr D. P. Morland
Sir, Lord Broxbourne's story (August 9) of Mr Gladstone addressing an audience in Athens, reminds me of a story of my father's. He spoke fluent Japanese and one day gave a lift to two Japanese hitchhikers in Yorkshire. They all conversed happily in Japanese and when my father dropped them off, one said to the other (in Japanese): "I never knew I spoke English so well".
Yours faithfully,
D. P. MORLAND,
138a Queensway, W2.
August 9.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Lord Colnbrook, 66; Dame Frances Clode, former chairman, WRVS, 85; Air Marshal Sir Maurice Heath, 79; Lord Heycock, 83; General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, 67; Sir Anthony Jolliffe, former Lord Mayor of London, 50; Mr Norris McWhirter, founder editor, *Guinness Book of Records*, 63; Sir Robin Nicholson, metallurgist, 54; Baroness Phillips, 78; Lord Renton, QC, 80; Mr Peter West, 68.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of York will attend the press preview at the Hyde Park Hotel at 11.00 for the unveiling of a new set of Royal Mail high value stamps based on his own photographs of famous British castles.

Baron Butterfield

The Queen has conferred the dignity of Baroness of the United Kingdom for life upon Sir William John Hughes Butterfield by the name style and title of Baron Butterfield of Stechford in the County of West Midlands.

Barbers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Barbers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr John Harry Scrutton; Upper Warden, Mr John Charles Smeeth; Middle Warden, Mr Alan William Frederick Lettin; Renter Warden, Mr William Willatt Slack; Deputy Master, Mr John Anthony Hart Bootes.

Service dinner

RAF St Athan Viscount Tonypan and Mrs Susan Williams, Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, were the guests of honour at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at RAF St Athan. Squadron Leader G W Davies presided. Air Commodore D R French, Station Commander, and Mrs French attended.

Bread reassurance

The National Farmers' Union has rejected suggestions that the price of bread would be forced up by rising world grain prices. In spite of the drought in the United States, and the wet July in this country, the anticipated size and quality of this year's harvest indicated no reason for any rise.

Sudan appeal

Donations to the Sudan Emergency Appeal may be made free of charge at any UK post office from today by means of Transcash. A Transcash form should be completed, quoting the name of the appeal and account number FREPAY 8800 and submitted at the counter with cash or cheque.

Latest estates

Mrs Florence Eleanor Ballard, of Brantwood Residential Rest Home for the Elderly, Congleton Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, late of 1 Cookesmore Lane, Sandbach, left estate valued at £17,836 net. She left her entire estate to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Dr Peter Edward Hughesdon, of Corringham Road, London NW11, left estate valued at £1,707,093 net. Other estates, net before tax paid, include: Mr John Eric Todd, of Kneassell, Newark, Nottingham, £984,125; Mrs Ethel Mabel Tansley, of Maidenhead, Berks, £495,989; Geraldine Constance Gossden, of Worthing, West Sussex, £642,485; Dorothy Mary Steer, of Combe, Devon, £543,680; Miss Bridget Dorothy Wrench Edleston, of Chichester, West Sussex, £314,057.

Mrs Nancy Inez Edwards, of Dorking, Surrey, £291,250; Miss Winifred Mary Evans, of Wallasey, Merseyside, £426,654; Mrs Olive Helmsley Fowler, of Northampton, £269,923; Mr Francis William Handscomb of Luton, Beds, £285,625; Mrs Sybil Mary Hart, of Menston, West Yorks, £566,543; Mr George Lloyd Lewis, of South Kelsey, Lincs, £679,895; Mr Frederick Claude Richardson, of Berrylands, Devon, £320,463.

Mr Robert William Harrington Smith, of Gritleton, Wilts, £340,802; Mrs Elsie Laura Wesley, of Burnham, Bucks, £102,708; Mrs Amy Barnard of Virginia Water, Surrey, £336,881; Mrs Elizabeth Dorothy Cameron, of Addison Grove, London, W4, £306,101; Mr Michael Charles Clarke, of Beal, Staffs, £380,081; Mr John Robert Fox of Curry Rivel, Somerset, £565,605; Mr Maurice Fox of Sneyd Park, Bristol, £455,095.

Mrs Margaret Reith Fraser, of Bushy Heath, Herts, £307,764; Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Hannah Heap, of Watford, Herts, £388,307; Julia Philomena McKay of West Temple, London SW14, £477,442; Mrs Margaret Kathleen Mellstrom, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, £376,905; Mr Kenneth Leslie Pearce, of Wolverhampton, West Midlands, £346,076; Louise May Scott of Folkestone, Kent, £308,010.

Mr George Sellick of Setley, Brockenhurst, Hants, intestate, £530,792; Mr Henry John Marston Sparrier, of Wick St Lawrence, Weston super Mare, Avon, £631,388; Mrs Margaret Dorothy Thomas, of Middleton, Warwickshire, £310,857.

Mrs Margaret Phillips Ward, of Lydard, Gwent, £302,933; Mrs Helena Atkins of Tonbridge, Kent, £552,549; Mrs Ruby Ellen Louise Bower, of Ferndown, Dorset, £393,124; Mr Bertram Cyril Burton, of Canford Cliffs, Dorset, £257,286; Mr Thomas Vangh Lee Cribb, of Wimpole Street, London W1, £308,875; Mr John Mortimer Crewther, of Long Preston, North Yorks, £609,736; Mr Alan Frank Hatcheson, of West Horsley, Surrey, £253,840.

Archaeology

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

The King's Men and the Whispering Knights have been mystifying travellers for centuries on the border between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire: now a detailed archaeological study has assigned them to their proper place in Britain's prehistory.

Known collectively as the Rollright Stones, the King's Men and the Whispering Knights are not prehistoric pop groups, but megalithic monuments, clusters of large stones set on a hilltop north of Chipping Norton.

First mentioned in a fourteenth century tract as "great stones, arranged as it were by the hand of man, but at what time or by what people is unknown", they were illustrated in Camden's *Britannia* as early as 1607.

In spite of this, they were not excavated until this decade, and Mr George Lambrick of the Oxford Archaeological Unit has now produced the definitive study of the stones, in a monograph on English Heritage.

There are three groups, all illustrated by Camden and most subsequent antiquarian authors: the King's Men, a stone circle with more than 70 upright stones, many eroded into weird shapes; the King Stone, a single upright a short distance away, now across the modern road; and the Whispering

Knights, a cluster of five stones identified as a "portal dolmen", a type of stone-chambered tomb. It probably stood under a cairn, of which Mr Lambrick has found traces, some of the stones of which are now missing.

The fields around the stones were intensively surveyed, using geophysical survey as well as simple fieldwalking, and an enclosed Iron Age settlement as well as artefacts ranging from the Mesolithic to the Anglo-Saxon period discovered. The stones and bronze age period between 3500 and 1500 BC when the three stone monuments were set up, was by no means the only era of prosperity on the rich sheep grazing lands of the south Cotswolds.

The King's Men are about 4,500 years old, and were originally a continuous circular wall of stones with a narrow entrance, marked by two portal stones. The tallest stone stood opposite the entry, and stone circles of this type are found in Cumbria and around the Irish Sea. Restoration and re-erection of fallen stones over the centuries had disguised the original plan.

The single King Stone remains an enigma, although Mr Lambrick tentatively identifies it as a cemetery marker because Bronze Age barrows and cremations have been found nearby, and no other satisfactory answer has emerged from the excavations. It was

apparently erected around 1700BC, and is the youngest of the monuments.

In spite of suggestions that it was of exotic material, a petrographic examination of the stone suggests that it is local oolitic limestone, brought from the bottom of the hill.

The Whispering Knights burial chamber is dated to about 3500BC, and Middle Neolithic pottery of this date has been found around it. It once had a capstone, now fallen, and Mr Lambrick suggests that the stone formed into a ramp for dragging the capstone into position on top of the upright slabs could then have been spread to form the cairn around the tomb chamber.

He has calculated the labour necessary for building the tomb, and with the aid of rollers and sheers to move the stones estimates that a crew of 67 men could have done the job in under two weeks.

The smaller stones of the circle could have been set up by a smaller labour force, but in any case the size of community needed to provide the manpower and support necessary for raising the Rollright Stones was not very large. If 20 per cent of the community could have been mobilized, he suggests, then the local village would not have needed to hold much over 300 people, and could have been smaller.

The Rollright Stones, George Lambrick (English Heritage, £16.00).

Listening to the trees



By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Horticulturists and fruit growers should soon be listening to the "cries" from the plants and trees in their greenhouses and orchards, telling them it is time to water their crops. The sounds that come from plants under stress from drought have been studied by Dr Hamlyn Jones of the AFRC Institute of Horticultural Research, at Wellesbourne, in Warwick. Dr Jones is seen here with his listening device.

Because the human ear cannot pick up the tell-tale sound of plant stress, the plants are monitored by ultrasonic detectors. No sound emanates from a satisfied plant or tree. But when it has difficulty sucking water from the ground, the listening device begins to pick up signals that are translated into a series of clicks.

In practice, the detector is measuring the equivalent of the noise that occurs with the sudden snapping of a twig. In the plant, each snap is a sudden fracture that occurs as the plant draws water.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A.S. Adams and Miss Celia Fortescue

The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Dr and Mrs M.S. Adams, of Seaview, Isle of Wight, and Celia, daughter of the late Fortescue and the late Viscountess Ebrington, of Swinbrook, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J.G. Abbott and Miss K.H.H. Kendall

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Dan Abbott, of Leeches, Henfield, West Sussex, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr John and Professor Marion Kendall, of Pite Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Mr J.L.G. Canessa and Miss J.E. Snelling

The engagement is announced between John Louis George, only son of Mr and Mrs Louis Canessa, of Gibraltar, and Joanna Elizabeth, younger daughter of Dr Richard Snelling, of Deal, Kent, and Mrs Meriel Steer, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.R.W. Goodwin and Miss H. Pollak

The engagement is announced between Ralph Robert William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Wladimir Goodwin, of Horsham, West Sussex, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr Robert Pollak, of Furry, near Axminster, East Devon, and Mrs Anne Pollak, of Sellick, Herefordshire.

Mr R. Harter and Miss M. Chatterjee

The marriage will take place on August 13, 1988, at the Church of St Thomas More, Harlepool, Cleveland, of Robin, son of Mr and Mrs R. Harter, and of Philip Harter, to Mimi, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.K. Chatterjee.

Lieutenant T.P. Haycock, RN and Miss C.M. Henshaw

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Haycock, of 15 Paxhill Lane, Twynning, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Camilla, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.P. Henshaw, of 2 Buckland Crescent, London, NW3.

Mr M. Helliwell and Miss D.F. John

The engagement is announced from Sydney, Australia, between Michael, younger son of Mrs Emily Helliwell and the late Mr Max Helliwell, of Sydney, Australia, and Dawn Frances, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis John, of Westminster, London.

Mr P.S.H. James and Miss K.L. Towler

The engagement is announced between Peter Stuart Llewellyn, youngest son of Mr and Mrs I.L.S. James, of Caswell Bay, West Glamorgan, and Katherine Isabel, daughter of Mr D.G.W. Towler and stepdaughter of Mrs D.G.W. Towler, of Great Ayrton, North Yorkshire.

Mr P.T. James and Miss E.L. Hunter

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs N.T. James, of Langstone, Gwent, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hunter, of Chichester House, Ditching, Sussex.

Mr D.J. MacGinty and Miss S.C. McNeill

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.J. MacGinty, of Pinkneys Green, Berkshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr Don McNeill, of Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Alan Wickens, of Idrighay, Derbyshire.

Mr G.K. Monson and Miss U.J. Pledger

The engagement is announced between Kristian, elder son of Mr M. Monson and Mrs L. Monson, of Tanager, Norway, and Julie, only daughter of Mrs K. Pledger, of Windermere, Cumbria.

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The engagement is announced between Kristian, elder son of Mr M. Monson and Mrs L. Monson, of Tanager, Norway, and Julie, only daughter of Mrs K. Pledger, of Windermere, Cumbria.

OBITUARY

DR ARNULFO ARIAS
Three times President of Panama

Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the Panamanian leader who battled in his country's often turbulent politics for four decades, died on August 10 in Miami at the age of 86.

He was President of the isthmian nation three times, in 1940, 1948, and 1968 but each time he was ousted by the Panamanian police or military who never let him finish an elected term and who usually accused him of seeking to become a dictator.

He was for the epitome of the Latin American populist leader with a stock in trade of simplistic nationalism and it was Arias who first popularized the slogan "Panama for the Panamanians". Yet when he was deposed for the last time by followers in General Omar Torrijos in October, 1968, it proved the soldiers who were eventually to succeed in obtaining from the Carter Administration the Panama Canal Treaty, tackling the underlying dispute over sovereignty with the Americans.

Arias, a rich coffee planter and landowner who had trained as a doctor in the United States, was the uncle of Dr Roberto Arias, the husband of Dame Margot Fonteyn and the son of another former Panamanian President.

During his career in politics, which began in 1931, when he helped his brother secure the presidency, to 1984 when he last fought as presidential candidate only losing by a mere, and hotly disputed, 1,700 votes, Arias had been shot at, jailed, deposed, exiled and deprived of his citizenship yet always he managed to fight back. He passed a total of 15 years in exile, 11 of them in Miami.

Arias was an old-style Latin American politician in the sense that the successive political formations he led were without ideology, except for their vague nationalism, and they bore catch-all labels such as the True Nationalist Revolutionary Party or the Democratic Opposition Alliance.

Yet because of his almost magical hold over the Panamanian masses he was able especially latterly to lead a genuinely popular party. In the 1968 presidential contest he obtained the biggest majority in Panama's history. But within 11 days of taking office he was deposed by the National Guard.

Before the Second World War Arias served as Panama's

ambassador in Britain and France, but it was his two years in Mussolini's Rome which impressed him most. He developed Fascist sympathies and this was to lead to his first ousting as Panama's President in a bloodless coup, backed by the United States, in October 1941.

The Battle of the Atlantic was at its height with American "Lend-Lease" shipments



vital to Britain. Arias refused Washington's plan to arm the Panamanian ships bringing weapons to this country. Raymond Gram Swing, the famous American wartime commentator, described Arias' stance at the time as "an act of direct aid to Hitler". Arias was banished by the new pro-Allied regime and went off to Colombia till the end of the war.

In 1951 Arias was overthrown for the second time after a four-hour gun battle in the presidential palace with his opponents accusing him of refusing to accept a Supreme Court ruling.

When he came to fight again for the presidency in 1968 Arias promised his followers a programme of "national reconstruction" but it was essentially his personal appeal as a leader who was himself an underdog, never having been allowed to complete his elected terms, which probably counted for most.

Authoritarian in his personal relations, Arias was again the favourite to win in May 1984 and biterly opposed by the military junta, calling Panama's first elections in 16 years.

Arias had promised he would "clean up" the National Guard after their years of untrammelled power and they saw to it that he lost.

Since last autumn Arias had watched from Miami the United States getting into ever deeper difficulties with General Noriega, Torrijos' successor and head of Panama's Defence Force.

SIR WILLIAM KININMONTH

Sir William Kininmonth, who died on August 8 at the age of 83, was an architect whose best work was firmly rooted in the Scottish tradition and a past President of the Royal Scottish Academy.

After studying at the School of Architecture in Edinburgh and the Slade in London, he worked in the offices of Sir Rowand Anderson of Edinburgh and later Sir Edwin Lutyens in London, where he helped on the Government House project at New Delhi.

Subsequently, he found a fruitful and significant alliance with Basil Spence.

The architecture of these two close colleagues, and friends, was characterised by its freshness and acumen. Traditional materials were their hallmark and the buildings were to influence a generation of architects.

After service in the Second World War as a captain in the

Royal Engineers, Kininmonth resumed his practice.

The partnership with Spence was dissolved and Kininmonth remained in Scotland where his practice prospered.

Renfrew Airport and Naval Air Station, Edinburgh Dental Hospital, housing, churches, university and civic buildings came in rapid succession, some gaining Civic Trust and Salford Awards of Merit.

In 1955 he was appointed as adviser to the City of Edinburgh for the development of Princes Street, following the plan of Sir Patrick Abercrombie.

Kininmonth was commissioned to design a new Edinburgh Festival Opera House, but the hoped-for consummation of Kininmonth's career remained only on paper.

He married Caroline Sutherland, the artist, in 1934. She died in 1978. He is survived by a daughter.

MR MANUEL KULUKUNDIS

Mr Manuel Kulukundis, who died in New York on August 9 at the age of 89, was regarded as an elder statesman among Greek shipowners.

He had been for many years President of the New York Greek Shipowners' Association.

Kulukundis's experience of the slump in world shipping freight in the mid-1930s sharpened his ability to detect subsequent symptoms of impending trouble.

When, in the 1950s, an increasing amount of tonnage was being laid up because of a combination of new ship building and a lessening demand for freight carrying, he played an international role in attempts to put tramp ship-

ping in a healthier worldwide situation.

Born in Greece, he joined his father's London shipping office as a young man in 1920 and was to spend his entire career in the shipping business.

Kulukundis was involved in running the family's widespread shipping interests along with his four brothers, his first cousin, Basil Mavrolean - whom, in a close family, they regarded as a sixth brother - and other younger members of the family.

Mr Eddie Kulukundis, the theatrical producer, who is married to Miss Susan Hampshire, the actress, is one of his nephews.

MR FERNAU HALL

Mr Fernau Hall, who from 1969 until recently was dance critic of the *Daily Telegraph*, died on August 9 at the age of 73.

Born in Victoria, British Columbia, he had settled in Britain in the mid 1930s. An enthusiast for dance, he studied with several teachers and appeared with various companies.

He also acted as stage manager for some groups, especially of ethnic dancers, and had a wide expertise in different national styles of dancing.

He began writing for *The Dancing Times* in 1937 and became chief critic of the magazine *Ballet Today* from 1958 until 1970. Shortly before that paper collapsed he was appointed to the *Telegraph* post.

MME ANNE-M. CAZALIS

Mme Anne-Marie Cazalis, the French poet and journalist, has died at the age of 65. She was one of the intellectuals who helped put the Left Bank back on the literary map of France after the liberation.

A friend of Boris Vian, Juliette Greco and Jean-Paul Sartre, she was a contributor to the many magazines mushrooming in the late 1940s.

She had been born in Algeria.

She was widely credited with French literature's possibly apocryphal famous telegram, sent on the day that André Gide died and addressed to his fellow Roman Catholic François Mauriac.

It ran thus: "Hell does not exist. You can indulge in debauchery. Inform Claudel, Gide."

Law Report August 12 1988 Court of Appeal

Damages over infringing market

Stoke-on-Trent City Council v W & J Wass Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Mann

[Judgment July 29]

Where a local authority operated a statutory market and a rival operator held a market which infringed the local authority's rights, the local authority was entitled to nominal damages only in respect of the period before the grant of an injunction unless it could prove substantial loss flowing from the operation of the rival market.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the defendants, W & J Wass Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Peter Gibson, who on March 26, 1987 had awarded the plaintiffs, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, damages to be assessed in an amount equivalent to the sum which it would have been appropriate for the plaintiffs to require as a fee for licensing a market held by the defendants at Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mr Terence Cullen, QC and Miss Barbara Hewson for the defendants; Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr Robin Campbell for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the levying of an unlawful same-day market within 6½ miles of a franchise or statutory market was actionable at the suit of the market owner without proof of loss.

At trial he would usually be awarded a permanent injunction and nominal damages. Where an interlocutory injunction had been running before trial, no further question of damages would usually arise.

In respect of any period where no injunction was in force substantial damages would be recoverable if loss could be proved. But where there had been no loss, was the market owner kept to his nominal damages or could he recover substantial damages on the footing that if his leave and licence had been sought he could have required a fee to be paid?

In November 1982 the defendants started to operate a Thursday market at Alderley Green, Longton. From February 13, 1986 the market had been held at a new site slightly to the north-west of the original. The defendants were currently operating the market on Tuesdays.

On April 12, 1984 the plaintiffs had opened their own market in Fenton. They had continued to hold it there ever since.

On March 4, 1986 the writ

was issued. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendants were infringing their right to operate their market at Fenton on Thursdays.

They claimed an injunction and general damages. The plaintiffs' application for an interlocutory injunction had been dismissed.

The sole subject matter of the appeal was the judge's award of damages for the period extending between the commencement of the plaintiffs' Fenton market and the grant of a permanent injunction at the trial.

The judge's observations had been treated by both sides as a finding that no loss had been caused to the plaintiffs' Fenton market and no appeal had been brought against that finding.

The judge had gone on to hold that the plaintiffs were nevertheless entitled to an award of damages on the basis of what would have been an appropriate fee for the plaintiffs to require for a licence to the defendants to operate their market between April 1984 and the date of his order.

Mr Cullen recognized that the plaintiffs' right of action did not depend on proof of loss to their Fenton market. He accepted that they were entitled to nominal damages. But he submitted that the finding that no actual damage had been caused precluded the court from awarding substantial damages on top.

The levying of an unlawful rival market was a tort. Whether it was a nuisance or a trespass was probably not a question of importance. The better view had to be that it was a nuisance.

The general rule was that a successful plaintiff in an action in tort recovered damages equivalent to the loss which he had suffered, no more and no less.

A second general rule was that where a plaintiff had suffered loss to his property or some proprietary right he recovered damages equivalent to the diminution in value of the property or right. The authorities established that both rules were subject to exceptions.

The first exception was that where a plaintiff had suffered no loss.

The second exception was in tortious. In *Strand Electric Engineering Co Ltd v Brigid Entertainment Ltd* [1995] 2 QB 246 the majority judgments assumed that in cases of this kind the plaintiffs had suffered loss.

The third exception was in infringement of patents. In all such cases the plaintiff was readily assumed proved or assumed to have suffered loss. They could not, therefore, be regarded like the trespass cases, as cases where the plaintiff had suffered no loss.

To those exceptions to the general rules in tort had to be added the decision in *Wrotham Park Estate Co Ltd v Parkside Homes Ltd* [1974] 1 WLR 798. The broad effect of the decision was that in cases of trespass to land and patent infringement and in some cases of nuisance and in some cases of nuisance, the court would award damages in accordance with what Lord Justice Nicholls had aptly termed "the user principle".

On an analogous principle, in a case where there was a breach of a restrictive covenant the court had, in lieu of a permanent mandatory injunction to restore the breach, awarded damages equivalent to the sum which the plaintiffs might reasonably have demanded for a relaxation of the covenant.

It was only in the last-mentioned case and in the trespass cases that damages had been awarded in accordance with either principle without proof of loss to the plaintiff.

In all other cases the question had not been whether substantial damages should be awarded at all, but whether they should be assessed in accordance with the user principle or by reference to the diminution in value of the property or right. In other words, the cases were exceptions to the second, but not to the first, of the general principles stated above.

The *Wrotham* decision stood very much on its own. It stood a long way from the present problem and did not assist in its solution. On a superficial view the trespass cases presented a greater difficulty. In trespass the defendant made an unlawful use of the plaintiff's land.

Similarly it could be said that in levying an unlawful rival market the defendant made an unlawful use of the plaintiff's market.

Ought it to make all the difference that in the first case the unlawful use was a physical one? That was a formidable line of

argument, but it was unsound. If the wayleave cases were put on one side the trespass cases really depended on the fact that the defendant's use of the plaintiff's land deprived the plaintiff of any opportunity of using it himself. The same could be said of

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Women in charge of men

The most curious thing about *Eating Out With Tovey* (BBC2), the latest attempt at that most marketable recipe of dunking some eccentric cook in local television exposure until he wins a national advertising contract, was that there was almost no eating out and very little Tovey. Indeed, there was not much soot at all. After about 20 minutes we had only been given a bowl of porridge.

Instead, we had very large helpings of "Loitering around with Lofthouse". Lofthouse was a rather ominously sane, slim, dark-haired, handsome woman who answered to the name of Marjorie and strode rather awkwardly out of shops as though the camera were on unseemingly voyeuristic vicar she was cutting dead. She did at least start off with Tovey, who was not slim, dark-haired, handsome, but he soon left to what he off-camera.

Tovey and Lofthouse's comings and goings at first did not matter, because their departure left more room for the view, which happened to be one of the most beautiful in Britain, since BBC North West had had the good sense to let Marjorie's loitering be done in the Lake District. But, just when we thought we would be allowed to sit down and enjoy the landscape during a foodless feast (porridge apart), she came up with not only a man and his dog but sheep, and before you could say Phil Drabble the viewers' nightmare of all television turning into sheepdog demonstrations had come true.

When we did eventually get into the kitchen and Tovey prepared us a Cumberland cooked breakfast, the purpose of Marjorie became clear. She was his gastronomic minder. Keith Floyd may be freely allowed to slurp, slurp his indulgences direct to camera, but not John Tovey, who can only be seen to do so under the critical gaze of Marjorie.

Having only got as far as breakfast with Tovey, it seems she will have some gazing to do. His porridge came with a healthy dose of whisky and even followers of Floyd might have raised an eyebrow, not to say their porridge, when he doused his grapefruit cocktail with that well-known Cumberland sauce, crème de menthe.

If a week in politics is a long time, in sexual politics it can be an eternity, which is perhaps why for the first part of *Esther Interviews*... (BBC1), David Owen, with smirking relish, seemed less concerned with squashing the idea that he might become the forgotten man of British politics than with reminding us what a ladies' man he is (he likes them beautiful and vulnerable but strong). He certainly seemed at least to be Esther's sort of man, though she could teach him a thing or two about keeping power and being in the public eye.

Andrew Hislop

Max Bell meets three young Australians who are bringing back the golden age of the back-combed, beehived girl groups

Doo-lang, doo-lang, doo-lang

Kylie Minogue's presence at number two in the current pop chart with "The Locomotion", originally a 1962 hit for the long-forgotten Little Eva, could be taken as a pale pre-echo of the arrival in London of the Fabulous Singlettes, fellow Australians whose hectic two-hour revue, *Stop in the Name of Love*, has been previewing to appreciative audiences at the Piccadilly Theatre this week.

Stop in the Name of Love is a gloriously tongue-in-cheek tribute to the legendary girl groups of the late Fifties and early Sixties, one which pays homage as much to the bouffant hair-dos and impossible stiletto heels of the era as to its musical gems. Judging by audience reactions from Wallingford to the West End, this satire on a teen-dream culture strikes a pleasant nerve. Plenty of people, it seems, are quite prepared to chuckle at the collective memory of visible panty lines and back-seat education.

Naomi Evers, Alison Jear and Lisa Shipley converged on Sydney two years ago. Evers had the inspiration to form a contemporary troupe capable of reinterpreting classics from a vintage when girl groups rejoiced in names like the Chiffons, Crystals, Exciters, Shangri-Las and Ronettes. "This was the first time that the girls took their rightful place at the front," she says, "and relegated the boys to the back room, for a change."

Tellingly, the Fabulous Singlettes find instances when even such male-chauvinistic young rockers as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones fell willingly into the arms of girl-group weepies like "Chains" and "Baby It's You".

The three Singlettes perfected



Miss Peaches 'n' Cream, buxom flirt and knowing bitch: left to right, Naomi Evers, Alison Jear and Lisa Shipley, The Fabulous Singlettes

this revue in the hard-bitten, hard-drinking environment of Perth's cabaret clubs before unleashing it first on Sydney and then on to last year's Edinburgh Festival, where the audiences quickly appreciated the hysterical diversions that the group add to their resurrections of such 25-year-old tear-jerkers as

"Born Too Late", "Leader of the Pack", and "Maybe". These ancient Americans teen-angel standards, once concocted by salaried tunesmiths in the music-publishers' offices of Manhattan's Brill Building, are now used as vehicles for observations on such vital aspects of pop culture as boys,

acne, heavy petting, boys, motor bikes, home-making and boys.

Naomi Evers's special interest in the female pop phenomenon was nurtured after receiving a copy of the American author Alan Betrock's definitive account of the subject, *Girl Groups - The Story of a Sound*, in 1984. Naomi had

fancied being a florist in Adelaide, before she discovered Tamsa Motown and showing off on stage.

Kindred spirits in Sydney furnished Evers with vinyl listening lists. After teaming up with Wayne Findlay, the Singlettes' musical director and a veteran of New South Wales rock, Evers's dream

show was almost on the road. Lisa Shipley was enlisted from the local pub rock scene; the impressively upholstered and classically trained Alison Jear was on the run from the Queensland Conservatory. The final catalyst was an Australian comedienne, Wendy Harmer, who writes their dialogue.

As the Fabulous Singlettes steer a safe course through a kitsch minefield, striking a firm balance between camp and credibility, Jear and Shipley play Mary and Florence to Evers's Diana Ross: a buxom flirt, a knowing bitch and a bossy Miss Peaches 'n' Cream, respectively. They are, however, no latter-day *Rocky Horror Show* - more of an Australian *Graffiti*, perhaps.

As with any successful formula, the hardest trick is to sustain an encore and a follow-up before audiences tire of the joke, and the Fabulous Singlettes are thinking hard before committing their show - with its total reliance on old songs - to record. "We have to be careful which songs we cover," Evers says. "And we have to cover them before someone else sneaks off with a really popular one."

Kylie Minogue and "The Locomotion", for instance? Mention of the *Neighbours* actress draws a response carefully pitched between sarcasm and diplomacy. Actually, given the popularity of John Waters's film *Hairspray* and the much-hyped *Shag*, the Singlettes' London engagement could turn into the hottest ticket since another, more venerable but equally outrageous Australian superstar, Dame Edna Everage herself, left town.

Stop in the Name of Love previews tonight and tomorrow at 6.30pm and 9pm, and opens for a three-month run on Monday.

Straying from the true

When I reported from Glasgow last month on the premiere of this production, we were told that the décor was unavoidably incomplete and would be seen to better advantage later.

However, except for a few extra pillars in the ballroom scene, and a couple of accessories here and there, not much difference was apparent last night when it reached the temporary theatre at Islington.

The stage is larger, so the dancers are no longer cramped, but I thought the lighting seemed less good. In particular, the design on the front curtain, the outline of a mask on a blackened heart, becomes scarcely legible. I imagine it was meant as a symbol of evil triumphing over love, but now it is merely an obstruction to the opening and closing tableaux.

My spies tell me that some forked lightning has been added to the last act, although the evening is such a long one (about three and a quarter hours) that my deadline called me away before that.

So I had to miss the curious ending with its multiple deaths.

DANCE

Moscow Classical Ballet Business Design Centre

yet there are oddities enough earlier in the evening, including a solo for Rothbart in which he dominates and terrifies the Queen before taking his seat next to her to watch their children falling in love.

On the whole, I would say that where this *Swan Lake* tries to be original, it goes astray. Its best qualities lie in the attempt to restore traditional virtues neglected in some other productions.

There is, alas, little left here by Petipa and Ivanov, and none of the new choreography is as good as theirs. But the careful polishing of the national dances in act three yields pleasure, especially the Mazurka and the Spanish dance.

These numbers, too, are the ones that suit the company best and show off its members. The

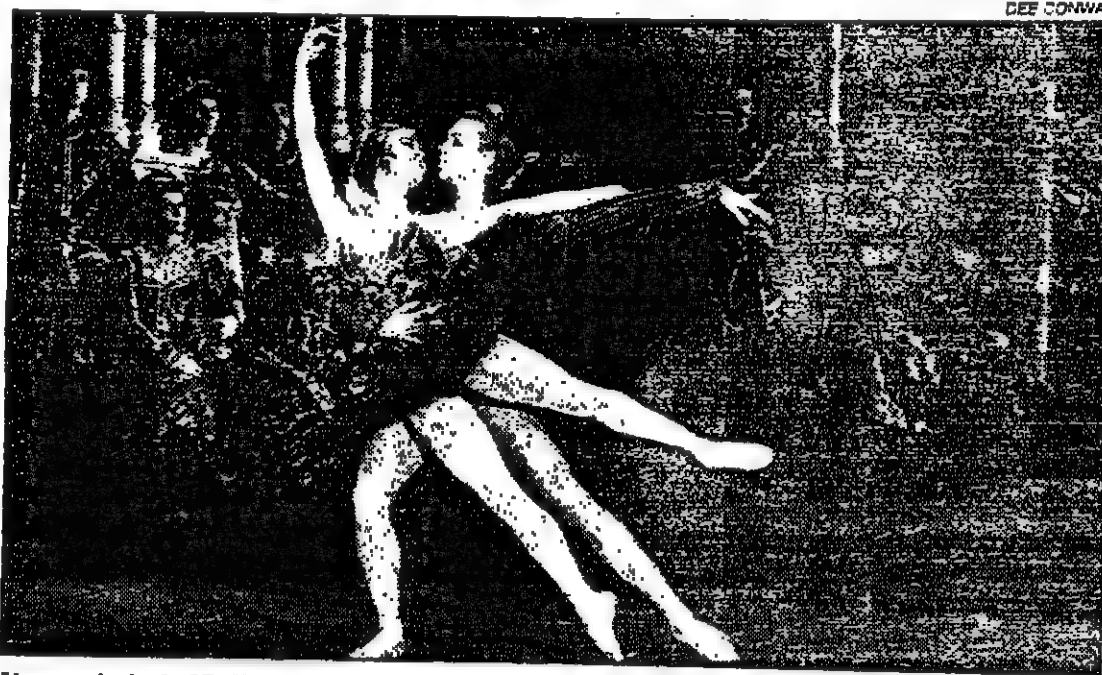
Moscow Classical Ballet is not a company in the same league as the Kirov, or anywhere near. A sound third division team, more like, with a capable ensemble, hard working soloists, and a handful of likeable principals.

The press were wisely shown two of the younger dancers in the leading roles. There are three casts and others may not be so good, unless they have improved a lot since Glasgow.

Vera Timashova's Odette is a quiet, trusting creature, softly lyrical in movement. She succeeds, where many more experienced dancers fail, in making her mirror image, Odile, recognizably an evil imitation: not flashy (although her fougues are dazzling) but warmly seductive.

Vladimir Malakhov as Siegfried relies, so far, on a personable presence rather than any definite characterization, but he has a light, easy style in his dancing that, with his boyish good looks, could take him quite a way.

The orchestra seems thin in such a large hall, and sometimes ragged. Tchaikovsky deserves bet-



Young principals: Vladimir Malakhov, as Siegfried, with Vera Timashova as Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*

ter when the production is relying on him as its chief draw.

The seasons at Islington by this company and, even more, by the Kirov last week, have demonstrated how useful a permanent theatre with more than 3,000 seats would be for dance and other big

shows in London. But the auditorium is at best makeshift.

The seats are not staggered and the rake is not steep enough to guarantee good visibility. You sit on hard plastic; queues in the intervals attest to a shortage of lavatories; the acoustics are poor.

Once the present ballet glut is over, it would make sense for all interested parties to get together and look for more permanent solutions to housing dance in London.

John Percival

THE ART OF PERFORMANCE.
CAPTURED ON VIDEO - IN STEREO

MADAMA BUTTERFLY - TEATRO ALLA SCALA.
Approximate running time: 145 minutes.
Includes a complete dual language libretto in the original as performed plus English translation.
Music by Puccini.



DON GIOVANNI - DROTTHINGHOLM COURT THEATRE.
Approximate running time: 164 minutes.
Includes a complete dual language libretto in the original as performed plus English translation.
Music by Mozart.



GLORIANA - ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA.
Approximate running time: 150 minutes.
Libretto enclosed.
Music by Benjamin Britten.



THE RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY - LONELY TOWN.
LONELY STREET/INTIMATE PAGES/SERGEANT EARLY'S DREAM.
Approximate running time: 85 minutes.
Booklet with synopsis enclosed.
Music by Bill Withers, Louis Janssens & traditional British, Irish and American folk songs.



ONEGIN - BALLET IN THREE ACTS BASED ON THE POEM BY ALEXANDER PUSHKIN.
Approximate running time: 95 minutes.
Booklet with synopsis enclosed.
Music by Tchaikovsky.



ALL TITLES STEREO UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. ORDER ON HIGH QUALITY VHS TAPE, S.R.P. £29.99 PER TITLE. £12.99 PER VOLUME. Coming soon... The Thieving Magpie, John Marshall, The Marriage of Figaro, John Cavar

CONCERT

BBC SSO/
Maksymik
Albert Hall/Radio 3

It was Nielsen who first explored the idea of a concerto soloist as a definite character, whose reactions to the various other "personalities" in the orchestra exert a strong influence on the musical action.

Thea Musgrave takes the idea further. By moving particular members of the orchestra about the hall she introduces a new element: staging.

Her Horn Concerto could have been written for the Albert Hall. The sound of horns calling to each other across its vast spaces would have been magical, even if the music were not so inventive; but it is a well-conceived and skilfully written piece, sympathetically exploiting the characteristics of the horns.

Various effects are introduced without any suggestion of exhibitionism, and at one point there is a seemingly effortless transition from the soloist's whale-sounds to pure, if fleeting, diatonism. Barry Tuckwell played his part with great conviction and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra responded enthusiastically.

It was the term of the BBC SSO strings to shine in Britten's *Les Illuminations*, and shine they did. Soprano Yvonne Kenny made some very pleasant sounds, and her sense of pitch was satisfyingly true.

Sibelius's *Pelléas et Mélisande* Suite, with the striking piece of mood-painting "By the sea" re-instated as the third movement, made a deeper impact. "At the castle gate" was surprisingly forceful, given the smallness of the forces and the size of the auditorium, and *Mélisande's* death spoke in sombre tones. In Jerry Maksymik's hands the individual numbers seemed to run together to form a continuous narrative.

Stephen Johnson

Oh, mother!

THEATRE

Mrs Klein
Cottesloe

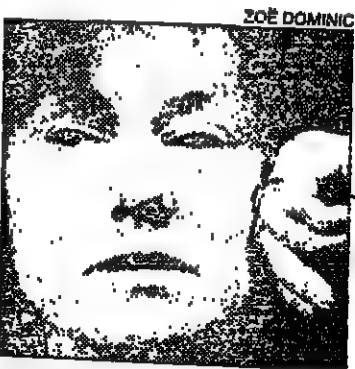
Melanie Klein, redoubtable child analyst and distressing mother, is the eponymous heroine of Nicholas Wright's new play. It is an engrossing work, strong, intelligent and structured ingeniously to leave us properly ambivalent about this inspiring and appalling woman.

The two acts cover a period of 18 hours in the spring of 1934, following the arrival of news at Mrs Klein's London home that her son has been killed in a climbing accident. Did he fall, as his mother (Gillian Barge) supposes, or jump, as his sister Melitta tells her mother, in a letter Mrs Klein is reluctant to read before leaving to catch her train for the funeral in Budapest?

Hopes for reconciliation come to Melitta (Francesca Annis), listening to Schubert in the Wigmore Hall, and inspire her to drive round to her mother's house to remove the letter before it is read.

Here she finds Paula Heimann (Zoë Wanamaker, marvellously precise), a refugee of her own age, an analyst, of course (all three women are analysts). Mrs K has invited her to read the proofs of a new book and look after the house, most of which she has significantly locked so that access is difficult - but possible, as the alert Paula discovers, when she manages to open the whisky cupboard from the back of the drawer above.

In a play entirely peopled by analysts, a desire for whisky will not be allowed to pass as a simple longing for the hard stuff. Wright finds attractive humour in the quainter reaches of psychobabble, an area about which the women themselves are nicely ambivalent - as who would not be when the car shared between mother and



Subtle triumph: Gillian Barge

daughter is not just a 1927 Sunbeam but must do duty as Mr Klein's penis?

Essential details of Kleinian theory emerge in the dialogue more naturally than is usually the case when an audience must be informed of what the characters never need to mention. Reconciling fantasies of the good mother and the bad lies at the heart of the theory, and this is at the play's heart too, for Melitta will not forgive her mother for turning her two children into guinea pigs and devouring them.

Performances are exquisitely just. The watchful, self-protective manoeuvres of communication and silence carry our attention between speaker and listener, hinting at the motives of each by a sudden exuberance, the rough tilt of a head or a careful, lipless smile.

For Gillian Barge, whose acting elsewhere has not always been so subtle, the performance is a triumph. With something of Irene Handl (another Viennese and a logical model) in the comedy of her attention-seeking, she leaves no doubt that here was a formidably shrewd thinker and a fearful parent.

Peter Gill's direction is almost as just as the playing, and will become completely so if he stops the jangling doorbell from turning the closing moments into melodrama.

Jeremy Kingston

FRIDAY AUGUST 12 1988

PART 2

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
SPORT 32-36

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1477.6 (-4.5)	US dollar 1.7010 (+0.0125)
FT-SE 100 1835.2 (-4.7)	W German mark 3.2285 (-0.0100)
USM (Datastream) 168.83 (+0.22)	Trade-weighted 76.9 (+0.2)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Sotheby's hammers \$36.7m

Sotheby's, the auction house which returned to the stock market in May this year, reported a 27 per cent jump in net income for the first six months of the year to \$36.7 million (£21.56 million). Operating revenues totalled \$171.7 million.

There was a big jump in sales as a result of auctions in North America, including the Andy Warhol Collection.

Steel banks

Lloyds Bank, the National Westminster and the Bank of Scotland are to act as receiving banks in the privatization of British Steel, processing share applications and issuing share certificates.

Interim up

Smith & Nephew is raising its interim dividend by 11 per cent to 1.55p a share after a rise from £48.4 million to £54.5 million in pre-tax profits for the 24 weeks ended June 18.

In the black

Charterhall, the investment company, made pre-tax profits of £12.4 million for the 18 months to end-June (£5.7 million loss in the year to end-December 1986).

Tempus, page 22

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2026.87 (-7.47)
Dow Jones	
Nikkei Average	27784.98 (+280.11)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	2585.28 (+15.80)
Amsterdam Gen	271.0 (-10.0)
Sydney AO	1817.8 (-15.4)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1464.9 (-15.0)
General	4884.5 (-100.8)
Paris CAC	351.2 (-7.9)
Zurich S&K Gen	468.8 (-6.8)
London	
FT-A All-Share	957.89 (-2.88)
FT-100	1047.96 (-2.50)
FT Gold Mines	188.3 (-1.5)
FT Fixed Interest	97.48 (-0.08)
FT Govt Cons	97.82 (-0.06)
Recent issues	Page 22
Closing prices	Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
A Cohen 'A'	900p (+75p)
Scott & Newcastle	340p (+12p)
Harold Lloyd	370p (+15p)
M & G	375p (+10p)
Barclay Group	310p (+10p)
Rush & Tompkins	270p (+10p)
J. H. & J. H.	270p (+10p)
Int Thomson	645p (+10p)
Amcrite	187p (+10p)
Calfins	687p (+12p)
Closing prices	
Bergins	2414

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10.5%
3-month interbank	11%-11.5%
3-month eligible bills	11%-10.5%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.03-7.02%
30-year bonds	9.7%-9.7%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
\$1.7010	\$1.7010
DM2.2890	DM2.2890
SwFr1.5900	SwFr1.5900
FF10.4375	FF10.4375
Yen133.57	Yen133.57
Index100.0	Index100.0
ECU 0.64490	SDR 0.759634

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$429.00 pm \$427.95	
252.00 \$427.00-427.50 (\$251.80-252.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$428.30-428.80	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept) pm \$15.00 (\$15.00)	
Denote instant trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on

Stockwatch yesterday included: Shell (02602) plunged 26p as 2nd quarter results disappointed, but BP (01210) rose 24p on results; Hambro Countrywide (04253) firmed 3p ahead of figures next month; Amersham International (01005) lifted 12p and Charles Barker (01810) gained 7p on renewed bid hopes; Kleinwort Benson (01014) firmed 3p as American International lifted its stake but Racal (01245) shed 24p on a stake sale.

Amec 6½% conv pref 03412 joins the list today.

Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Investments in Gibraltar mixed with British funds, says receiver

Confusion over Clowes cash

By Lawrence Lever

Eleven thousand investors in the Gibraltar end of Barlow Clowes are facing even greater losses as further details emerged yesterday concerning millions of pounds of their money which was mixed with funds belonging to the British end of the crashed investment group.

The £100 million losses faced by investors in Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar company, contrast markedly with the position of investors in Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, the British end. They have a good chance of getting practically all of their money back. Mr Michael Jordan of Cork Gully, the accountants, said he hoped that, as an interim measure, they would receive "a substantial" repayment by Christmas.

Mr Jordan was speaking at a creditors meeting for BCGM investors held in London yesterday.

At the meeting Mr Edward Dolman, the Official Receiver, said there was about £52.5 million currently held in Britain. This is roughly equivalent to the value of the claims from BCGM investors. However, it was clear from the meeting that there is still considerable confusion as to whom the money belongs.

Mr Dolman told the meeting that the money in BCGM included £16 million of BCI investors' money, which seems to have been transferred to Britain in January this year "in order to balance the investments with the investors." This was while DTI inspectors were investigating BCGM.

Moreover, according to Mr Dolman and Mr Jordan, it appears that over a number of years sums totalling around £10 million were systematically transferred out of BCGM to Jersey, where they were mixed with money belonging to Gibraltar investors.

Apart from the intermingling of funds there is evidence that at least some of

the firms, mostly small, have been rejected because the AFBD does not consider them "fit and proper".

The 12 firms include three which have already been provisionally wound up by the Securities and Investments Board. These include DPR

Futures, which used high-pressure selling over the telephone.

Those which have simply been refused membership include Farrow Ltd, Linwood Investments, Instant Rate Ltd, Eurocorp Financial Services and Prescott Commodities.

Two of the 12 have asked for reconsideration and have not been named. The AFBD has rejected 13 firms so far. It has 25 full members.

the Barlow Clowes investors had their individual money switched offshore into BCI without their permission.

The confusion is compounded by the fact that there are 10 different categories of investor in BCGM whose rights to the return of their money might not be the same. Investors' rights are likely to vary according to which portfolio they are in.

Those in the best position appear to be investors whose money is being held by Lloyds Bank as custodian trustee. Lloyds has about £6 million of investors' money. This money does not appear to have been artificially swelled by money from BCI.

The same can not be said, however, about the £18 million or so of the £52.5 million, which is held in five special trust accounts set with Midland Bank by various financial intermediaries for their clients.

Money could only be withdrawn from these accounts against the signature of the intermediaries. However, it appears that some of them suffered dealing losses which were offset by BCI money coming in from abroad.

The meeting was told that the Inland Revenue had investigated whether BCGM had been acting as an unauthorised unit trust. If so tax of "several millions" could be levied against BCGM.

However, Mr Jordan read out a letter from the Inland Revenue, stating that on the facts presently available it did not regard BCGM as a unit trust. The revenue says that it may change its view if new facts come to light.

A considerable amount of the meeting was taken up by discussing the possible conflict of interests in accountancy firms Cork Gully and Ernst & Whinney being liquidators of both BCGM and BCI.

However, it was made clear that potential conflicts would be referred to the High Court and both firms were appointed as liquidators.

Watchdog rejects firms

One of the new City watchdogs - The Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers - has refused membership to a further 12 futures brokers.

The firms, mostly small, have been rejected because the AFBD does not consider them "fit and proper".

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Barlow Clowes investor Mr Hugh Jenkins demands an answer from chairman Mr Edward Dolman at yesterday's meeting (Photographs: Mark Pepper)

Rise in US prime rates confirms market fears

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Leading US banks yesterday raised their prime lending rates by half a point to 10 per cent, confirming market fears that interest rates would rise dramatically over the next several months in response to the inflation-fighting measures announced by the Federal Reserve Board.

Share prices dropped initially on the widely anticipated rise in the prime rate to its highest level in three years, before recovering some ground to show a loss of nine points in afternoon trading.

Tuesday's surprise decision by the Fed to raise the discount rate prior to the November elections has unnerved financial markets, even though the tightening was generally applauded.

"The Fed obviously sees more inflationary pressure than meets the eye - otherwise they would not have done it," said Mr Robert Hormats of Goldman Sachs.

At the same time, the increase in rates has put renewed upward pressure on the dollar, and led to widespread speculation that the Group of Seven nations will

have to take dramatic action to hold the US currency within the upper reaches of their non-public target zones. It is widely assumed that the upper reaches of the secret zones are about DM1.90 and ¥140.

Recently, as the dollar moved toward and finally pierced the psychologically important DM1.90 level, the

Profit-taking started a wave of dollar selling, boosted by a warning from Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the German Finance Minister, of dangers from the dollar's rise above DM1.90. It closed in London down 2 pence at DM1.8930. Sterling rose 1.25 cents to \$1.7010, and was weaker against the mark.

The next important test for the dollar will come on Tuesday when the United States releases trade figures for June, which are expected to reveal a deficit of \$11 billion (£6.5 billion) to \$12.5 billion.

If the deficit is lower than expectations, analysts believe this could propel the dollar towards new highs.

The negative pressure on share prices was expected to intensify as US interest rates continued to rise in response to the Fed's tightening. Other rates are expected to follow the prime rate rise, which was led by Chase Manhattan.

Bank's Quarterly Bulletin

Growth in demand 'must be halved'

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Growth of domestic demand in the economy needs to be more than halved, the Bank of England says in its latest Quarterly Bulletin.

Although the economy is much more productive than it was, demand is still well above the economy's capacity to supply. This is the main reason for the widening current account deficit.

The Bank says inflationary pressures are rising worldwide. Higher capacity utilization, rising metals prices and the recent strength of the dollar have all contributed.

In Britain, a further increase in inflation is due over the next 12 months, but the Bank expects the peak to be below 6 per cent.

The balance of policies to deal with this situation is now much more appropriate than it was three months ago at the time of the last Monthly Bulletin, the Bank believes. The combination of interest rates 3½ per cent higher and an effective exchange rate at about the same level as the

beginning of the year represents a necessary tightening.

The Bank will be watching the economy carefully to determine whether interest rates have been raised far enough while at the same time avoiding the risk of a "hard landing".

To reduce both inflation and the current account deficit will require "the rate of domestic demand to slow to less than that of productive potential". The Bank estimates long-run growth in productive potential at around 4 per cent in manufacturing and 3 per cent for the economy as a whole. This compares with growth in domestic demand during the 12 months to the first quarter of this year of nearly 7 per cent, compared with 4 per cent during 1987.

Strong public sector finances and the investment boom are more reassuring. The current account deficit reflects excessive demand rather than any underlying lack of competitiveness.

Comment, page 23

RHM defends with £156m forecast

By John Bell, City Editor

Sir Peter Reynolds, chairman of the bakery and food group Ranks Hovis McDougall, hit back at the £1.7 billion takeover bid from the Australian group Goodman Fielder Watney with forecasts of higher profits and dividends.

Launching his formal defence, Sir Peter promised RHM shareholders that profits would rise 34 per cent to at least £156 million in the year to September 3. The profits boost will be accompanied by a 25 per cent rise in total dividends to 10.61p per share.

Goodman Fielder last night described the RHM forecast as disappointing as it did not match some expectations of £160 million. GFW says that it will produce support for its

claim that RHM seems set for profit consolidation and a declining real growth rate.

RHM's forecast, however, came as little surprise. Estimates of about £155 million were common. But RHM has kept a little of its powder dry by fixing a floor on the forecast, but no ceiling.

Now that the prediction is in black and white, it backs the board's case that GFW's 465p share offer undervalues the British group. The forecast has earnings per share of not less than 30p, giving an exit price ratio of 15.5. Routledge went out at more than 20 times earnings. But the Australian company already has almost 30 per cent built up over the past two years.

Texaco in big find near Piper Alpha

By Our Energy Correspondent

Texaco has made an important new North Sea oil find 117 miles north-east of Aberdeen, within sight of the wreckage of the Piper Alpha production platform operated by Occidental.

The discovery may eventually be brought into production using the same pipeline system used to take oil and gas from Piper Alpha and the nearby Texaco Tartan, Highlander and Petronella oilfields to the Flotta terminal on Orkney.

At present the Texaco fields and the Flotta terminal are closed while work goes on to isolate Piper Alpha.

Texaco said yesterday that work was going ahead on

schedule, but it could still be some months before production started again from the fields.

The discovery in block 14/20 has produced oil at a rate of 5,824 barrels a day and 2 million cu. ft. of gas from a depth of between 14,522 and 14,600 ft.

Further appraisal drilling will be carried out, probably using the semi-submersible drilling rig Benvenckie which made the discovery.

Dr Alan Cocks, Texaco North Sea's general manager drilling, said: "We are planning appraisal drilling of this promising find, which is only seven miles from our Tartan field."

Big two oil companies reveal mixed fortunes

Shell disappointment, but joy for BP

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Britain's two biggest oil companies alternately disappointed and delighted the City yesterday, with Shell announcing half-year results well below expectations, and BP returning a set of half-year profit figures above forecasts and announcing a higher than expected dividend.

The stock market price of Shell dropped 29p to 1.025p, while BP's price moved up 5.5p to 259p.

Although Shell actually reported a rise in profits for the half year, on a net basis of 8 per cent, to £1.455 billion, compared with £1.35 billion for the same period last year, its earnings in the second quarter of this year of £633 million were well below forecasts made by City analysts.

They had predicted profits ranging from £650 million to £890 million. Last year profits were £656 million in the same period.

On an historic cost basis, the Shell

half-year profits of £1.557 billion were up 27 per cent on last year's figure of £1.228 billion.

By contrast, the BP half-year figures of £713 million on a replacement cost basis and £620 million on an historic cost basis, as well as second-quarter profits of £323 million and £357 million respectively, were in excess of City forecasts.

The announcement that BP will also pay an interim dividend of 5p, compared with 4.5p for the same period last year, and that shareholders will once again be able to take their dividend payments either in cash or in new BP shares, was also welcomed by the market.

Shell will not make its interim dividend announcement until September 15.

Shell's figures show that the company was particularly badly hit by weak gas sales during this year's comparatively mild winter. Shell was also badly affected by an explosion which damaged its refinery in Louisiana which cost £60 million to repair and meant that the company was unable to supply certain

petro-chemical products when demand in the southern US was high.

Both companies reported falling earnings from their exploration and oil producing activities, due largely to the fall in the world oil price and the weaker dollar.

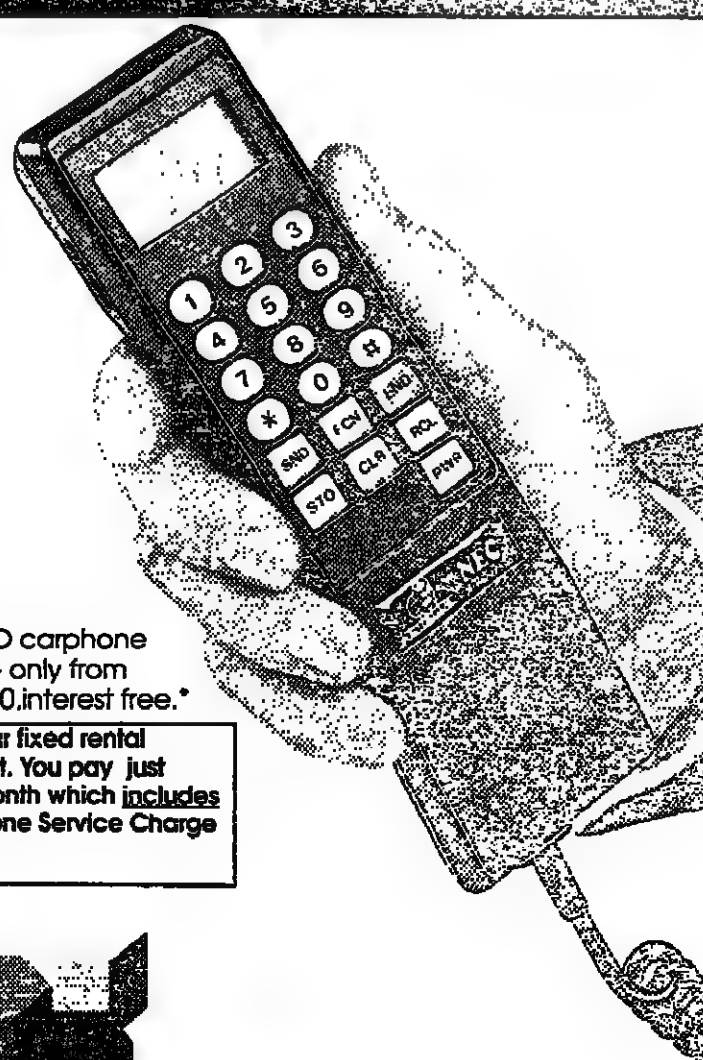
A spokesman for Shell said: "The outlook for exploration and production earnings for the rest of the year remains dependent on oil and gas prices. Crude prices have recently appeared somewhat firmer, but are likely to remain volatile."

Mr David Simmon, managing director finance of BP, said that he saw the world oil price remaining volatile. He described the increased dividend payment announced by BP as "the best signal the directors can give of their confidence in the company's ability to generate satisfactory returns."

BP announced that it is joining with Petrofina of Belgium, Agip of Italy, Veba of Germany, Elf and Total of France, and Repsol of Spain to discuss overall European oil refining policies.

Tempus, page 22

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US insurance group raises stake in KBL

American International Group, the largest US quoted insurance company, has raised its stake in Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, the merchant bank. The purchase of 1 million shares takes AIG's holding from 5.3 per cent to 6 per cent at a cost of about £3.8 million.

Mr David Peake, chairman-elect of KBL, said that the increased stake did not change the bank's relationship with AIG which was holding the shares as a long-term investment. He said that KBL's attitude to AIG was likely to change only if the US insurer bought more than about 10 per cent. The share purchase did little to raise expectations of a bid for KBL. AIG insists that it has no plans to bid, and the shareholding structure of the bank would make an unfriendly takeover attempt difficult to pull off. KBL's shares rose 5p to 383p.

Mersey Docks doubles profit

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which controls the port of Liverpool, doubled its half-year, pre-tax profits to £2.58 million on a turnover up 3.5 per cent to £26.76 million. Interim earnings per share rose from 6.3p to 12.9p. As in the previous year, there was no tax charge. The company is talking with the Government about financial reconstruction. Following the news, Mersey Docks' shares dropped 5p to 396p.

Airflow buys Whiteley

Airflow Streamlines, the Ford main dealer and maker of motor assemblies, has paid £600,000 for S Whiteley & Sons, which manufactures cabs for earthmoving and similar machinery. Whiteley is based in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire.

Airflow has also paid £120,000 for vacant land next to Whiteley's main factory which will be used to expand the business. Airflow says Whiteley, which also has an air engineering division treating toxic fumes from laboratories and factories, complements its existing cab-making business. Whiteley made pre-tax profits of £10,000 in the year to end-September 1987. Net assets amounted to £561,000.

West offers shares at 25p

West Industries, the construction to pest control group, has announced its open-offer terms for the subscription of a total 12 million new 5p ordinary shares at a price of 25p each. The cash subscription and open offer is on the basis of one new ordinary share for every three shares held on July 14. Offer documents will be posted to shareholders today. Applications must be received by Friday September 2.

Expansion for French

Thomas French & Sons, the manufacturer of curtain tape and garden hoses, has bought Lan-Bar, an assembler and distributor of bathroom accessories, for £135,000 cash. The vendor is Eagle Trust, the Midlands mini-conglomerate. Lan-Bar operates from Halesowen, West Midlands, and made a loss before tax of £116,000 in the nine months to end-December after non-recurring costs of more than £100,000.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000
ADT 2,783	CU 1,296	Laporte 23	Saatchi 869
Abbey 1,222	Comp Gold 1,122	LAG 702	Savoy 1,898
Ad-Lions 782	Corson 271	Lloyd 730	Scott & N 1,588
Amstrad 2,608	Courtauld 2,287	Lommo 624	Seam 18,619
ASDA 2,453	Dagany 1,882	Lucas 883	Seagrow 186
AB Foods 723	Dell 158	Magner 388	Shall 1,883
Amul 1,366	Divons 1,883	M&S 4,311	Shaw 282
BAA 1,783	ECC 999	Naval Cm 861	Slough 523
BET 3,284	Emerson 257	MEPC 847	Smith & N 1,180
BTR 5,475	Ferraro 2,305	Pharos 1,818	Smith & N 1,808
BAT 1,901	Fisons 1,247	Norand 1,643	Smiths Ind 1,014
Birdsday 578	F&I Babco 1,108	Narvest 886	STC 1,203
Bass 664	Gem Acc 279	Nest 1,829	Stan Chart 272
Beecham 1,831	GEI 2,905	Nit Food 537	Storax 1,819
Beazer 2,439	Glen 1,211	P&O 1,224	Sun Amos 415
Bentley SW 358	Globe Inv 129	Phar 157	T & N 826
BICC 864	Glynwed 359	Pharmon 854	Tarmac 4,342
Blue Arrow 5,814	Grange 1,043	Pharmon 854	Tate & Lyle 512
Blue Circle 705	Grange Int 2,943	Plessey 1,105	Taylor Wood 946
BOC 1,329	GRS A 307	Poly Pack 2,673	TSC 291
Borex 2,201	GRS B 736	Prudential 8,544	Tesco 286
BPP 600	GUN 1,575	Racal 15,409	Thorn EMI 988
Br Aero 1,348	Gunn 2,827	Rh Hovis 3,548	Tratrig 792
Br Airways 5,487	Harmon A 728	Rene 742	TRF 1,441
Br Comm 1,106	Hawes 3,858	RHC 150	Ultramar 2,203
Br Gas 3,017	H & C 166	Redland 1,536	Unigate 2,859
Br Land 515	Hawker 612	Reed 3,365	Unilever 2,150
Br Petrol 438	IMI 1,521	RMC Gp 573	United Dig 701
Br Telecom 14,127	ICI 1,575	Royce 1,371	Wellcome 724
Bund 1,122	Incapac 701	Royce 1,119	Wharfed 779
Burns 784	Jaguar 2,253	Romm B 1,119	Williams 2,182
C&W 1,308	Lasmo 1,825	Romm B 1,119	Wills Fab 281
Cadbury 4,525	Ladbroke 1,463	Royal Bank 91	Wimpey G 453
Coats 3,812	Land Sec 582	Royal Ind 2,960	Woolworth 865

Market just a little too sure of Shell

Analysts were a little too sure of Shell ahead of its half year figures. The group caught analysts on the hop with interim results that were about £100 million below average forecasts. Oil watchers had become over-confident.

This time, the enthusiasts were going for current cost profits in the region of £850 million for the second quarter, and were taken aback with a current cost figure of £657 million. The mayhem arose through a number of modest difficulties, which added up to a hefty number.

In a year of tumbling crude oil prices, upstream profits were always going to be under pressure, and Shell profits were expected to suffer the additional burden of a seasonal fall-off in gas sales compared with winter levels. In the event, there were also the effects of stronger sterling against the dollar and some taxation effects.

Exploration and production earnings in the second quarter slumped from £385 million to £194 million. Though crude production was down only 1 per cent on the corresponding quarter of last year, natural gas volumes dropped 9 per cent. Over the first half, exploration and production earnings were down 34 per cent at £564 million.

Elsewhere, chemicals was the star performer. Over the half year earnings ran out at

£477 million, a 58 per cent rise in the half year.

Marine, marketing and manufacturing profits also enjoyed higher volumes and margins. Half-year earnings were £508 million, up some £98 million on last year.

Shell maintains that, under the adverse circumstances, the half-year result was favourable, despite the explosion and fire in Louisiana. The company attributes this to the wide spread of activities geographically and industrially, though shareholders will take scant comfort from this.

The City was also left in the dark over the dividend. Sir Peter Holmes, the chairman and the rest of his board have decided to announce the interim dividend on September 15.

In contrast, round at Britannic House, the BP board came down in favour of a 7p rise to 5p in the interim dividend, settling the long-running City debate in favour of the bulls.

Mr David Simon, managing director, pointed out that the decision should be read as a sign of confidence for the future. The dividend underpins BP's shares in the face of such imponderables as the outcome of the KJO stake.

Most analysts expect a final payment which puts the BP shares on a yield of roughly 7 per cent. This should more than take care of any worries over a possible disposal of part of the Kuwait holdings. BP



David Simon of BP: the dividend 'is a sign of confidence'

shares responded well to a £40 million rise in second quarter historic cost profits to £357 million, gaining 4p to 259p.

Charterhall

Charterhall's chairman and managing director, Mr Russell Goward, is not shy when outlining his aspirations.

Trained in the camp of Sir Ron Brierley, Mr Goward took a 49.9 per cent stake in Charterhall in 1986 through the Australian company, Westmax, in which he holds a third of the equity.

Since then he has transformed Charterhall, taking it from its roots as a small oil exploration company to a dynamic investment vehicle. His strategy is to build up

worthwhile stakes in companies with a view to gaining full control. Contested bids are not favoured so unpromising investments are sold.

By this route, Charterhall is building up a stream of earnings from businesses under its control. Tandem, the shoe retailing operation, has earned between £4 million and £5 million since joining the group in January.

Meanwhile, the bulk of profits is generated from selling share stakes, and there is minimal dividend income from quoted investments.

Yesterday's results included profits from the disposal of some North Sea interests, netting just over £3 million, while the sale of a stake in

Trilion, a television company, yielded a further £3.5 million. A miscellany of other share trades brought in £3 million of profit.

The imminent acquisition of Lennards, another shoe retailer, will make the enlarged business the third biggest in the country by number of outlets. The deal takes Charterhall's assets of £100 million to £125 million of quoted investments.

Charterhall is undoubtedly making rapid progress but it has yet to be fully accepted by the City. The shares, on a forecast for the year to June 1989 of £12.5 million, are on a p/e of under 6.5 times earnings. One to be watched.

Smith & Nephew

Every time the sun shines and joggers pound the streets, Smith & Nephew must clap hands. For as sun-worshippers use Nivea cream, and joggers rush for the Elastoplast, Smith & Nephew sales go higher. A replacement lip or a new knee is even more profitable.

Half-time sales were thus up an underlying 15 per cent in the 24 weeks ended June 18 (though held to a 6 per cent advance to £267.1 million after taking the impact of ad-

verse currency movements into account) and pre-tax profits rose by 13 per cent from £48.4 million to £54.5 million.

The currency boggy casts something of a shadow over the outlook for the full year, but the market and the board remain confident of further year-on-year growth to underpin the group's reputation as solid and reliable.

Pressure in Britain and continued de-stocking in the US impact, growth was good in Europe particularly in France.

Benefits of the October, 1986, acquisition of Richards Medical Company (USA) for £201 million are becoming increasingly noticeable, and this week Smith & Nephew enlarged its toiletries division with the £33 million purchase of the Albion group, through which its share of the British skin-care market is improved and its share of the British toilet soap market will go up to 6 per cent.

An orthopaedic manufacturing plant in Switzerland is up for sale, which should help the second half.

Takeover thoughts will help underpin the current share price of 120½p, as will pre-tax profit estimates of £126 million (£109.6 million) this year. On a rating of 12.9 the shares are worth holding in a portfolio which in current uncertain market conditions has first aid in mind.

More officials join former HKSE chief in the dock

Li faces further charges of corruption

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Eight past and present officials of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange appeared in court yesterday on corruption charges. The Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Crown Colony's anti-corruption watchdog, is accusing the eight, who include Mr Ronald Li, the former chairman, and Mr Charles Sin, the present chairman, of accepting share bribes from three of Hong Kong's biggest merchant banks.

The charges are connected with the listing of five companies on the local stock exchange prior to the worldwide stock market crash last year - Cathay Pacific airline, Kumagai Gumi, the construction group, Hysan Development, the property company, Video Technology International, the video game manufacturer, and QPL Holdings, the computer components manufacturer.

Those accused are Mr Li, aged 58; Mr Sin, aged 52; Mr Jeffrey Sun, aged 56, the former chief executive of the exchange; Mr Kenneth Wong, aged 57, Mr Chan Siu-leung, aged 66, and Mr Joseph Ma, aged 51, the current vice-chairman of the exchange; Mr John Chong, aged 53, a former vice-chairman and Mr Edward Woo, aged 50, a current member of the exchange's decision-making



Out on bail: Ronald Li, former chairman of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, leaves court

committee. All were charged under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, which carries a sentence of up to seven years in jail and a fine of HK\$500,000 (£37,000). No pleas were taken and the case was adjourned until October 13.

Mr Anthony Duckett, the deputy Crown prosecutor,

said the ICAC was continuing its investigations, and that there was the possibility of more charges.

All eight were released on bail of between HK\$2.15 million and HK\$10 million, and all but Mr Woo had to surrender their passports.

Mr Li has already been charged with accepting a share

subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, in connection with the flotation of Video Technology, QPL and Hysan.

He is also accused of accepting a HK\$630,000 commission from Wardley for sub-underwriting the Cathay Pacific flotation, and of accepting 500,000 Cathay Pacific shares from Wardley at HK\$3.88 a share on May 17, 1986, two days after the shares had soared to HK\$5.15 a share.

Mr Sun has already appeared in court on charges of accepting shares in QPL and Video Technology. Yesterday he was charged with an additional count of accepting shares from Baring Securities in connection with the listing of Hysan.

The six new defendants who, with the exception of Mr Chong, had all been asked by the Hong Kong government to distance themselves from the running of the exchange when the ICAC announced its investigations, face a total of 16 charges.

Mr Sin, Mr Wong, Mr Chan and Mr Chong are each charged with accepting shares in Video Technology, QPL and Hysan.

Mr Ma and Mr Woo are charged with accepting shares in QPL and Hysan.

With the exception of Mr Chan, all of the defendants were on the exchange's powerful listing committee.

CBI renews protest on electricity

By Our Industrial Editor

The Confederation of British Industry has renewed its attack on the foreshadowed electricity price rises next year of up to 10 per cent.

The CBI is already closely monitoring the effects of a 9 per cent rise brought in this year to see how it is affecting industry, particularly heavy users like steel-makers and those in chemicals, industrial gases, paper and man-made fibres.

This rise and the coming one could together add close to £900 million a year to business costs, according to CBI estimates.

The CBI argues that a business case for the coming rises has not been made out because the electricity supply industry had a return on assets in its last full year of 11.2 per cent.

Belgium sets up 'Big Bang'

Brussels (Reuter) - Mr Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian Finance Minister, called for key stock market reforms, including an end to brokers' monopoly on deals, to update Brussels' financial centre.

Mr Maystadt said he would chair a new commission to discuss what he called "inescapable" changes.

A Finance Ministry official said the reforms could be Belgium's "Big Bang".

Lloyds Bank Access Alteration in Interest Rate

Lloyds Bank announces that the monthly rate of interest charged to its Access cardholders will be increased from 1.8% to 1.9% per month (equivalent to an Annual Percentage Rate of 25.3%) with effect from 19 August 1988.

From that date the new rate will be applied to all interest bearing balances, cash advances and all purchases attracting interest for the first time.

The first sentence of Condition 7 of Lloyds Bank Access Conditions of Use is amended accordingly and the percentage rates quoted in Condition 5 of Lloyds Bank Access Company Cards Conditions of Use will be similarly amended from the same date.



THE LLOYDS GROUP BANK
Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3A 4BS.

New study of funds' investment

By Maria Scott

The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) has begun a study which could result in pension funds taking a more adventurous approach to their investment decisions.

"It has been argued that fund managers and trustees take an excessively restrictive and cautious view with respect to the assets of their funds, using interpretations of trust law, taxation and - in its widest sense - performance to justify this," says the NAPF.

A working party has been set up to look at the reasoning behind investment decisions, and to see whether guidelines should be issued.

Pension funds rarely invest in commodities, because the Inland Revenue considers this a trading activity and thus taxable.

Residential housing is another unpopular area but it is not entirely clear whether managers shy away from this for legal difficulties or from the possible moral conflicts involved if a pension fund, as a landlord, was forced to evict people.

Mr Clive Gilchrist, vice-chairman of the NAPF's investment committee, says an over-riding reason for avoiding some investment options could be that their performance does not lend itself to easy measurement over short periods.

The NAPF's latest review of pension fund activities comes a month after the announcement of its research into investment by pension funds in shares of their sponsoring companies. The working party came out against this and recommended that funds with shares in their own companies should reduce the holdings.

Job hopes boosted by best Scotch exports in six years

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Scotch whisky exports have had their best six months of sales for six years, with volume up almost 5 per cent and value showing a rise of 12 per cent in the half year to June.

It is good news for the big whisky makers as exports account for about 85 per cent of Scotch production.

In the 12 months to the end of June, Scotch earned a record £1.2 billion in exports, with volume up more than 4 per cent.

Improvements had been sustained in the first half of this year, with export value reaching £562 million. Mr Ivan Straker, the public affairs committee chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association, said. They were the best half-yearly export figures since 1982, he added.

It means a better future for jobs in Scotland in the industry, promised Mr Straker. In the past 10 years, when whisky makers bedevilled by

excess stocks, a number of distilleries have been closed down.

Mr Straker said: "The most encouraging aspect of these figures is that the bottled-in-Scotland product continued to perform strongly with both blends and malts doing better than last year. Scottish bottled brands account for 70 per cent of the volume of our exports and 90 per cent of the value. In 1987 they earned more than £1 billion for the first time."

The increase in Scottish bottled sales is also encouraging for the distillers because profit margins are usually markedly better than on bulk supplies, almost wholly malts, which go abroad for blending in various countries. Shipments of bulk whiskies have been falling, notably to Japan.

The increase in the Scottish bottled product is thought to be one reason for the jump in value of the Scotch exports. But prices generally have gone

up and currency movements are also in some cases likely to have played a part.

What has still to come through is the promised removal of tax discrimination against Scotch in the Japanese market. Next April, provided final approval is forthcoming, the Scotch makers will be able to compete on equal terms with the Japanese domestic whiskies.

Without this there has been what Mr Straker described as an encouraging increase in exports to Japan. These have declined in recent years but the latest increase achieved is likely to have been close to 20 per cent according to initial estimates.

Most EEC markets are still showing improvements for the distillers, said Mr Straker. This particularly applied to EEC newcomers like Spain, Portugal and Greece. The EEC market now takes about 34 per cent of Scotch exports.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Times (John) (80p)	132
Acad (135p)	152	
BWSS (115p)	123-2	
Bucknell Aust (110p)	123	
Burton Gp (125p)	170-1	
Catwell Int	51	
Chas Gp (145p)	108	
Cy Gp	308-2	
Colston Fowler (125p)	145	
Conroy (150p)	155-3	
Conroy Pst	53-2	
Dukemaster	82-1	
Euk Oseas Prop (150p)	136	
Euro Gp (165p)	158	
European Color	29-2	
Herridge (95p)	185	
Herridge Son (150p)	81	
Howard (80p)	112	
Jackson Gp	160	
Linear Gp (115p)	140-2	
Nat Telecom	61-1	
Osam Gp (80p)	240	
Palmerton Pads	240	
Rockport	150-2	
Saunderson Elec (130p)	150-2	
Sevells (120p)	150-2	
SCGroup	150-2	
Sevenside-R (80p)	94	
Scotts Taps (150p)	11	

Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 11th August 1988, its Base Rate was increased from 10½% to 11% p.a.



Head Office - Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

The Leeds abandons plans for public company status

By Maria Scott

The Leeds Permanent Building Society has abandoned tentative plans to become a public company.

The decision comes less than a month after a similar one from the Halifax, and leaves the Abbey National increasingly isolated among the six largest societies in the debate over conversion.

Mr Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, said the society had not abandoned the idea of conversion permanently.

But for the moment, he said, it did not believe it could justify the cost, work and time involved.

The decision by board members and advisers had been unanimous.

Among the six largest societies, the Abbey now stands out as the only one with a firm commitment to pursue

conversion. Whether it finally does, however, rests with the members, and an anti-flotation group — Abbey Members Against Flotation — is campaigning against it.

The Halifax examined the possibility and abandoned it, for the foreseeable future at least, and the Nationwide Anglia has not seriously considered it.

The Woolwich Equitable has given an initial thumbs down to the idea — although it does intend to appoint an adviser to investigate the possibility.

One favourite for conversion is the Alliance & Leicester which has, so far, received a lukewarm response from members, according to market research.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Abbey said the Leeds' decision would not deter the

board from pursuing its desire to convert.

The Abbey is committed to developing its current account and to expanding Cornerstone, its high street estate agency chain.

It believes that going public is the only way it can get the flexibility needed for raising capital.

Leeds Permanent's plans have more in common with the Halifax. Neither wants to launch current accounts, but the Halifax has already launched a Visa credit card and the Leeds will follow suit shortly.

The Abbey is now understood to have agreed a time with the Government for a flotation — possibly June next year.

Mr John Ginnaris, financial analyst with Banque Paribas Capital Markets, says he be-

lieves timing probably has influenced the Halifax and Leeds. But he believes they have also decided that raising money from the stock market will be more expensive than they had expected.

Ratings in the banking sector are such that they would probably have to float with a yield of six to seven per cent, and dividends would need to rise by about 10 per cent a year. That is expensive money for them.

Another factor is the possible loss of the good image they have built up under minimal status.

Mr Alec Leaver, chairman of Abbey Members Against Flotation said he was delighted with the Leeds decision.

"I would hope this makes the Abbey board think again. It certainly should."

Insurance merger called off

Royal Insurance yesterday announced that it had broken off talks with Compagnie Financière du Groupe Victoire, the French investment company, aimed at combining their insurance operations.

Royal had hoped to exchange shares for control of Abellie, Victoire's insurance subsidiary. The long-running talks broke down, however, over the complexities of combining the operations of two such large companies. Royal's shares rose 5p to 400p.

Fisons buys Italian firm

Fisons, the international pharmaceuticals group, has bought Italcimici, the Italian pharmaceuticals company, for £31.5 million cash.

Last year, Italcimici had pre-tax profits of £2.6 million on a turnover of £11 million.

De Savary plan

Mr Peter de Savary's LandLeisure, the property and leisure group, is planning a £200 million redevelopment of the former Westlands Aerodrome site at Weston-super-Mare, Avon. It aims to develop a business park including commercial, residential and leisure facilities.

Trust scheme

Shareholders in Marine Adventure Sailing Trust will be given the opportunity to extend the investment trust's life for another six months at an extraordinary meeting on September 2. The trust is due to come to an end on September 30.

Engineer gains

Davies & Metcalfe, the mechanical and electrical engineering group, made pre-tax profits of £723,000 (£412,000) during the first half of the year. The interim dividend is 0.67p (0.63p).

Profits leap

Profits at Metal Bulletin, the USM-listed publisher of trade journals and books, advanced 57 per cent to £503,000 in the first six months of the year. An interim dividend of 1.85p (1.65p) was announced.

Mosaic soars

Mosaic Investments doubled pre-tax profits from £486,000 to £976,000 in the year to end April. A final 3p dividend makes a 3p adjusted total.

COMMENT

Will Lawson's balancing act stand test of time?

The present combination of exchange rates and interest rates is much more appropriate than it was three months ago, acknowledges the Bank of England in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin*. The pound is only slightly weaker in terms of its effective rate while interest rates are 3½ points higher. But whether or not it is appropriate enough is another matter.

The testing time will be the next few months. In the Bank's view the full effect of the 3½-point rise is not to be gauged merely from its size. The decisive switch of direction will have affected sentiment significantly and could even risk overkill. Although the money supply is unlikely to react without a considerable lag, the runes will be studied very closely in the real economy, including the housing market, to see if the tightening of policy seems to be doing the trick.

It is no mean trick that is required. As the Bank points out, demand in the economy has to slow down, at least for a period, to below the long-run growth of productive potential. At the moment the gap between the two is large. Last year domestic demand rose by 4 per cent, in the year to the fourth quarter by 5 per cent and in the first quarter of 1988 by nearly 7 per cent. There is no reason why demand and supply potential should always grow at the same rate in the short run, but over the longer term if the growth in demand is substantially faster inflation will rise and the current account will move into deficit.

Because the economy is now performing more efficiently, produc-

tive potential is growing faster than it was — perhaps by 3 per cent over the longer term or the same as in the 1960s. But that is still less than half the recent rate of growth in demand. And because the current account is already in deficit demand needs actually to fall below productive potential for a period in order to shrink the deficit before allowing demand to move back in line with supply.

This does not need to happen next year — though many in the Bank think it should. On the basis of the present tightening of interest rates it is doubtful if it will. Much will depend on the Chancellor's decisions at Budget time. If the economy is still speeding ahead by next March then the prospect of another large net cut in taxes becomes more remote. Nigel Lawson can argue the case for seizing the political opportunity for tax reform once, but probably not twice.

Budget decisions, however, are some way over the horizon. Before then there will be further questions to answer on monetary policy. The rise in interest rates elsewhere, most recently in the US with yesterday's increase in prime lending rates by the banks, does not of itself imply the need to raise rates again in Britain. The test must be the outlook for inflation in the countries concerned. But changes in exchange rates can have inflationary implications as the Germans are currently being reminded. There will have to be a clear improvement in the domestic economic news during the next few weeks if another rise in rates is to be avoided.

Silent threat to consumers

Hardly surprising, the majority of consumers are unhappy about having their personal financial information passed on without their knowledge or consent. Indeed, few consumers even realize that highly confidential information is being passed from hand to hand without authorization.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, chairman of the National Consumer Council, has drawn attention to the situation and criticized banks and financial institutions for passing information on individuals to third parties.

"For some time now, there has been an undercurrent of concern over the uses to which personal financial information about individuals can be put."

"There is an obvious incentive for institutions to use the information they hold about you through providing one service to sell you another. Wouldn't it be helpful, the bank may say, to draw your attention to the other services it may offer — savings schemes, for instance, or insurance. And, of course, some banks own estate agents, travel

agents and even car hire firms," she said in the council's annual report.

The problem seems to arise not so much from information being passed to outsiders, although this does happen regularly through the conduit of the credit reference agencies, but when different parts of the same group dip into the same computerized database in their search for new business.

Against this background it is hardly surprising that there is a strong undercurrent of discontent at some of the lengthy questionnaires being posted out to clients of stockbroking businesses. It is not so much that customers object to their broker knowing everything from the names of their mistress's children to the colours of their socks, but in the age of the financial supermarket nobody can be quite sure where all that information is likely to finish up.

At the very least, as Mrs Oppenheim-Barnes points out, the cross fertilization of client lists generates a mountain of junk mail, which people neither want nor need. And at the worst, it involves serious breaches in confidentiality of information given in all innocence.

Bae investors back Rover deal

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

British Aerospace will assume full management control of Rover Group by mid-September after the approval of the £150 million takeover at an extraordinary meeting of BAE shareholders.

Professor Roland Smith, chairman of BAE, described the terms of the deal as "extremely attractive."

Several hundred shareholders attended the meeting yesterday though there was no notable criticism of the deal and only half a dozen votes were cast against.

Professor Smith said 55 million proxy votes had been received and "there are only a small number of votes against." He looked forward to approval so "we can go on to concentrate on our total business."

BAE shareholders have agreed to buy the Government's 99.8 per cent holding in Rover for 2.7p a share and offer Rover's 60,000 minority shareholders £1 a share.

Professor Smith was asked to explain why those holding Rover shares should receive such "an extravagant price" and why more money was not to be paid to the many



"Terms are extremely attractive": Roland Smith yesterday

permitted on their original investment of only 0.2 per cent.

He said: "Bearing in mind all the aggravation if we did

but I think we have come to a price that is fair and reasonable."

Questions highlighted concern about the control the European Commission will exercise over BAE's management of Rover.

This caused BAE to delay signing the deal, much to the Government's embarrassment, as there were fears any deviation from Rover's five year corporate plan would enable the Commission to reclaim the £547 million Government cash injection into Rover.

"This caused us to think fairly carefully in the last 36 hours before the deal was signed," Professor Smith said. He was now confident that as long as BAE stuck to the "agreed formula" the Commission would not interfere and there would be flexibility to meet market changes. "Following the experience we had before signing the deal, we shall not have too much difficulty."

He explained the Government's conditions to deter BAE from selling off parts of Rover within the first five years of the deal relate to the marque names. Other assets can be sold off without the Government claiming back any profit from the sale.

Seagram and IDV in Far East deal

By Wolfgang Münchauer

International Distillers & Vintners (IDV), the wines and spirits subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan, has reached an agreement with Seagram, the Canadian spirits company, over a joint Far Eastern distribution arrangement.

This year GrandMet and Seagram were involved in a bitter takeover battle for Martell, the French cognac company, in which Seagram succeeded with a bid of nearly \$1 billion (£590 million).

The deal follows an agreement between Martell and IDV, under which Martell was responsible for the Far Eastern distribution of IDV's brands, such as J&B Whisky and

Smirnoff Vodka and Bailey's Irish Cream.

Seagram, which owns Martell, Chivas Regal, Glenlivet and Mumm Champagne, will distribute Martell Cognac and Jannet Armagnac as well as IDV's brands in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. IDV will distribute in areas where Seagram does not operate.

Mr George Bull, the chairman of IDV, said: "We are convinced that this new relationship will strengthen our international business especially in the Far East." IDV counts as one of the main players in the fast growing Far Eastern market.

WH Smith pays £7m for stationer

By Alexandra Jackson

WH Smith Group is increasing its exposure to the fast-growing commercial stationery market with the £7 million acquisition of Sater, one of the country's largest independent companies in the field.

Sater turned over £8.9 million in the year to last December, on which it reported profits of £585,000. WH Smith may have to pay a further £500,000, depending on profits this year. The historic exit multiple is 18 times earnings.

About 70 per cent of Sater's profits come from the £1.5 billion commercial stationery market. WH Smith already

has one such business — Pentagon — which is expected to have generated sales of £15 million and profits of £1 million in the year to end-May.

Mr Malcolm Field, managing director of WH Smith, said: "This is an important strategic move for us. We see great potential in this market, especially in the contract stationery market. We aim to build up a 10 per cent market share."

WH Smith reports results for the year to end-May next Wednesday. Market estimates suggest pre-tax profits may rise from £63.8 million to £71 million.

Aurum's just William

Aurum Press, a subsidiary of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group, has pulled off a publishing coup by securing the hotly contested world rights to Lord Whitelaw's memoirs. The tome, as yet untitled, is being written in Cumbria by the former Leader of the House of Lords. The book, due to be published next May, will be serialized by *The Sunday Times*. It is expected to chronicle everything from Willie's childhood, his challenge for the Tory leadership when he was beaten by Margaret Thatcher, his relationship with Edward Heath, and the years in office. These include the years spent in Northern Ireland, stewardship of the Home Office when Michael Fagan broke into Buckingham Palace, as well as his ministerial last February. This followed a minor stroke two months earlier during a Christmas carol concert. But I have a word of warning for Lord Whitelaw if he is hoping that publishing is all plain sailing. Aurum Press, founded by Tory colleague Tom Arnold, and Tim Chadwick, and taken over by the RUG last year, published the PM's first collected volume of speeches, *In Defence of Freedom*. But it achieved notoriety earlier this year with its publication of Tom Bower's book, *Maxwell the Outsider*. After Robert Maxwell took umbrage over certain passages the book is now sold only by "discerning" booksellers.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Building a performance

When Peter Aldridge set up Needwood, the builders' merchant, at the end of last year, he decided to sponsor events which would give his company a snazzy image rather than others in the world of bricks and mortar. Now he has found a vehicle, backing a new musical about Jack Backman, the music hall star of the 1920s and 1930s. The idea came from Peter Woodward, son of Edward, "The Equaliser," whom Aldridge met while the thespian's son was playing *King Lear* in a production backed by Marley, the tile people, where

which was taken over last year by Equitcorp, the Antipodean investment group. Peter Hunt, chief architect at Equitcorp of the contested takeover, has left Equitcorp and resigned his directorship of Guinness Mahon. The official version is that Mr Hunt wants to return to Australia to pursue other interests. Less officially, his relationship with the rest of Equitcorp's management has been more than a little strained of late. The Antipodean company suffered heavily in the stock market crash and its gearing ratios became stretched. Since then, it has sold off the non-banking parts of Guinness Peat, but is still saddled with Guinness Mahon, whose shares are worth a fraction of the purchase price.

"Sir might have done better spending his money with Barlow Clowes"

Quiet riot

Loudmouthed Hooray Henry patrons of City watering holes may suffer an unexpected hiccup after the licensing laws are extended on August 22. Although drinking will be allowed between 2.30pm and 5pm by publicans who can face it, there is a woolly worded section in the legislation that will enable neighbours of pubs and clubs, including businesses and schools, to have the former licensing hours restored if drinkers prove to be a nuisance. The main victims of the disturbance clause — which can only be implemented by a magistrate — may be bars where drinkers spill on to the pavement, congregating after other drinking establishments have closed. Until now these hostilities where bad behaviour is the norm have seen the worst excesses on Thursday and Friday nights. But the City and Westminster police fear the yahoo tendency will disrupt working routine. As one officer told me: "The City runs on business and, whether it is an international bank, complaining or the chap trying to sell tobacco, they will receive a sympathetic ear."

It seems you can not afford to be in a hurry when choosing an investment vehicle. One of the main functions of the Securities and Investment Board is to keep a register of investment businesses so the public can check their status. But yesterday the computerized register was "down" from 11am, and callers were asked to ring back today.

Rosemary Unsworth

FINANCIAL TIMES MAGAZINES

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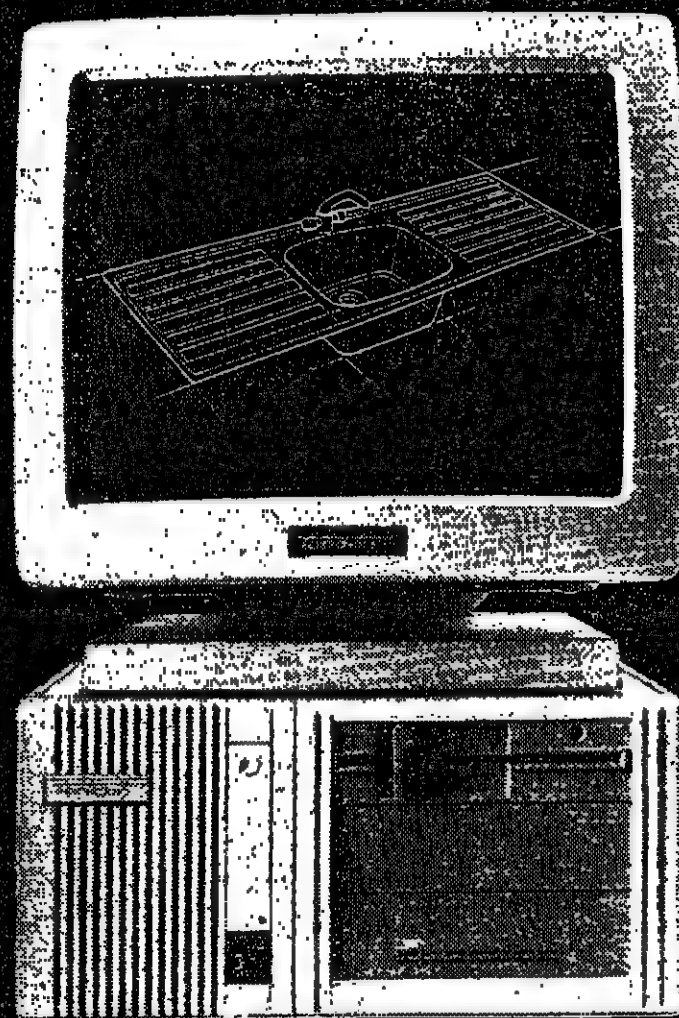
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MOTORING

Rover 820 gets its back up



Rover's new 820 Fastback is a sleek-looking executive car — but did it deserve the "O" series (Montego) engine? However, the hatch gives good storage

It has been Austin Rover engineer before when briefing motoring writers. "OK, so it seems an unlikely combination, but I am prepared to let the car speak for itself. You will be pleasantly surprised."

He was talking about the Rover 820 Fastback, at £11,995 the cheapest of the recently launched hatchback version of the 800 range of executive saloons which first appeared some two years ago.

The cynical look had surfaced when he said that the 820 would be powered by the carburetted 2-litre "O" series engine used in the Montego. At 98bhp it is at least 25bhp down on most rival fuel-injected engines and when pushed hard becomes noisy and rough.

Surely it was a retrograde step to fit it to a car which, if not clearly, was well equipped and aimed at the upper end of the fleet market and the better-off private buyer?

Was it worth damaging the 800's improving image to be able to cut the price by £850 — the saving made by using "O" series instead of the much more powerful and up-to-date M16 2-litre already in the saloon version?

Proof that the combination works comes from driving the 820, but only if it is bought for the right reasons.

It is slow off the mark (0-60mph, 11.6 seconds) and needs frequent use of the five-speed gears to maintain anything approaching rapid progress. This is made less of a chore by a very light clutch and the precise, drag-free Honda gearbox.

However, if you try to squeeze out a little more speed by hanging on to the revs through the gears the engine becomes thrashy.

But driven as a comfortable, well-appointed if sedate conveyance, it will deliver you at your destination in a relaxed frame of mind. It is surprising how little difference there is in journey

time between a blood-pressure raising, press-on-at-all-costs trip and a more leisurely one.

The 820 will top 115mph but is not happy above 90mph. It is a good motorway vehicle, capable of cruising all day at 80mph.

This is not a stripped-out car. It retains the luxury of walnut fascia inserts, velvet-trimmed seats, tinted

glass, remote hatchback and fuel injection, carpeted load space and an eight-speaker hi-fi system — hard to match at under £12,000.

Petrol consumption is reasonable despite the problems inherent with a low-powered large car. A light-footed touch returns 30mpg but this quickly falls to 25mpg when driven enthusiastically.

The saloon now costs £15,948 and the Avant £17,010. As an added precaution against driver mis-use, Audi has fitted a warning buzzer to all automatics. It sounds if the gear lever is not left in Park with the engine switched off.

Rather later than its competitors, Lada has announced a limited edition "Summer Special". The Riva 1200L features a glass sunroof, stereo radio and tape-player, Riva 1600-style wheeltrims, the inevitable coachline and Special badges. At £4,085 it is £770 more than the basic 1200L.

ROADWISE

Audi has increased the power, torque and price of its turbo diesel engines in the 80 and 100 models.

The 80's 1.6-litre now has an intercooler and water cooling for the turbocharger. It will reach 62mph (100kph) in 14.6 seconds and tops 108mph. Price: £12,590 — up nearly £300.

An intercooler has also been added to the 2-litre, five cylinder turbo diesel in both saloon and Avant versions of the 100, giving power of 115 per cent and torque by 13 per cent.

Facelift for the topless Clipper

With the multi-layered hood erected, 70mph is about as fast as you can go and still converse without shouting. Folding the hood back takes only a couple of minutes. Two catches have to be released above the windscreen and then a little muscle applied to pull it back and press down to engage with retention toggles. It takes another five minutes to fit the innuend cover.

The glass rear window with heated element is a real boon. It does not become scratched

and opaque like plastic windows and can be quickly cleared in damp conditions. The Clipper has sacrificed boot space to house the hood. The remaining space is minimal but, used as a two-seater as most open tops seem to be, the solution is to fold down the rear seats, trebling the baggage room.

This year Clipper has acquired a colour-matched body kit comprising front and rear wrap-around bumpers and spoilers, wheelarch extensions and side sills. It now sports similar contrasting body, hood and upholstery colour to the more expensive GTI.

Unfortunately, it still exhibits its two old VW faults — a heavy, notchy gear change and spongy brakes. The latter surprised me. I thought we had seen the last of that long-standing problem.

The Clipper costs £10,781, which compares favourably with its competitors.



VW's Golf Clipper now has similar styling to the costlier GTI

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By Mandarin

SAISE gained due reward for his consistency when successful at Newcastle last month and he can follow up in the Gardner Merchant Hungerford Stakes at Newbury this afternoon.

He could hardly have had three stiffer tasks to begin the season, taking second in Indian Ridge, Cadeaux Genereux and Warning. The latter pair particularly have given an edge to that form, Cadeaux Genereux finishing second in a group two event at Deauville on Sunday and Warning, of course, won the group one Sussex Stakes at Goodwood last month.

When his turn came Saise looked no less impressive, stretching out well through the

final two furlongs to beat Always Fair, who should again be held. He is clearly used to tackling high-calibre opposition and can be expected to give another good account of himself.

Indian Ridge renews rivalry but is still worse off for the 1½ lengths beating he gave Saise at Royal Ascot, and he may not be able to confirm the form.

Oshomellow returned to winning ways at Goodwood but is not always the easiest of rides, and as the danger I nominate Ghariba. She has been off the course since finishing fourth to Ravenna in the 1,000 Guineas in April but is the type to go well when fresh.

Although only five turn out for the listed Washington

Singer Stakes the race has produced an intriguing three-cornered fight between Akid, Prince Of Dance and Zalazi.

Akid won an army of admirers with his impressive victory at Ascot last month, but I was taken with the determination shown by PRINCE OF DANCE to hold off Batsfoot on the course the previous day.

It was precisely that quality which carried the day for his stable companion Emmonson in this race a year ago and he can prevail again. He is my nap.

Zalazi is well regarded and cannot be underrated considering the form of Henry Cecil's juveniles, but he has more to do than when winning at Kempton last time.

BOLD PILLAGER's form figures are less than inspiring but he has a better chance in

the Rousley Handicap than they at first suggest. He has been running in competitive handicaps this season and turned in a good effort when seventh to Governorship in the Royal Hunt Cup.

Peter Walwyn's COM-MAND PERFORMER can improve on her highly encouraging second to Musical Bliss at Ascot last time in the Seven Barrows Maiden Fillies' Stakes, while the unpredictable ILE DE CHYPRE will surely get few better opportunities to win a race than in the Newtown Maiden Stakes.

At Haydock Park's evening meeting TIME TO GO HOME can record his seventh success of the season in the Salasah Auction Stakes. His

chance of beating Providence's record of 16 two-year-old wins in a season seems to have slipped away but he remains a formidable performer in this grade.

SINGULAR RUN is taken to defy top weight in the West Lancashire Evening Gazette Nursery. Although a beaten favourite when last of three to Polar Run at Newbury last month he had previously made an eye-catching debut at Salisbury. A return to that form would put him in here with a fine chance.

Finally, SO CAREFUL can win the Philip Cornes Match. Lesley Bruce will not bear of defeat for Klute but it will be surprising if he can cope with an experienced racehorse at peak fitness.

Consistent Saise has right credentials

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3.10 GARDNER MERCHANT HUNGERFORD STAKES (Group III)

221.348 (7) 60yds (11 runners)

301 (11) 030316 SIN SHADAD 16 (C,D,F,G,S) (At K. Al-Jahel) M Pigeon 4-9-0 T New 90
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The world's fastest woman has had a long wait for her success, as Peter Nichols reports

Joyner brings style to running fast

For a woman who runs so very fast, Florence Griffith-Joyner still remarkably still. It is not an inert pose, more a meticulous one. In a black leather dress, black shoes, silver-looped earrings and individually painted fingernails, she is immaculate.

In Indianapolis, at the United States Olympic trials three weeks ago, she ran her 100 metres heat in 10.49 seconds to become the fastest woman on earth. Her time broke Evelyn Ashford's world record by an astonishing 0.27 second. That was pretty immaculate, too. It shocked even Joyner. "I looked up at the clock as I crossed the line and I thought: 'Could that be for my race?'"

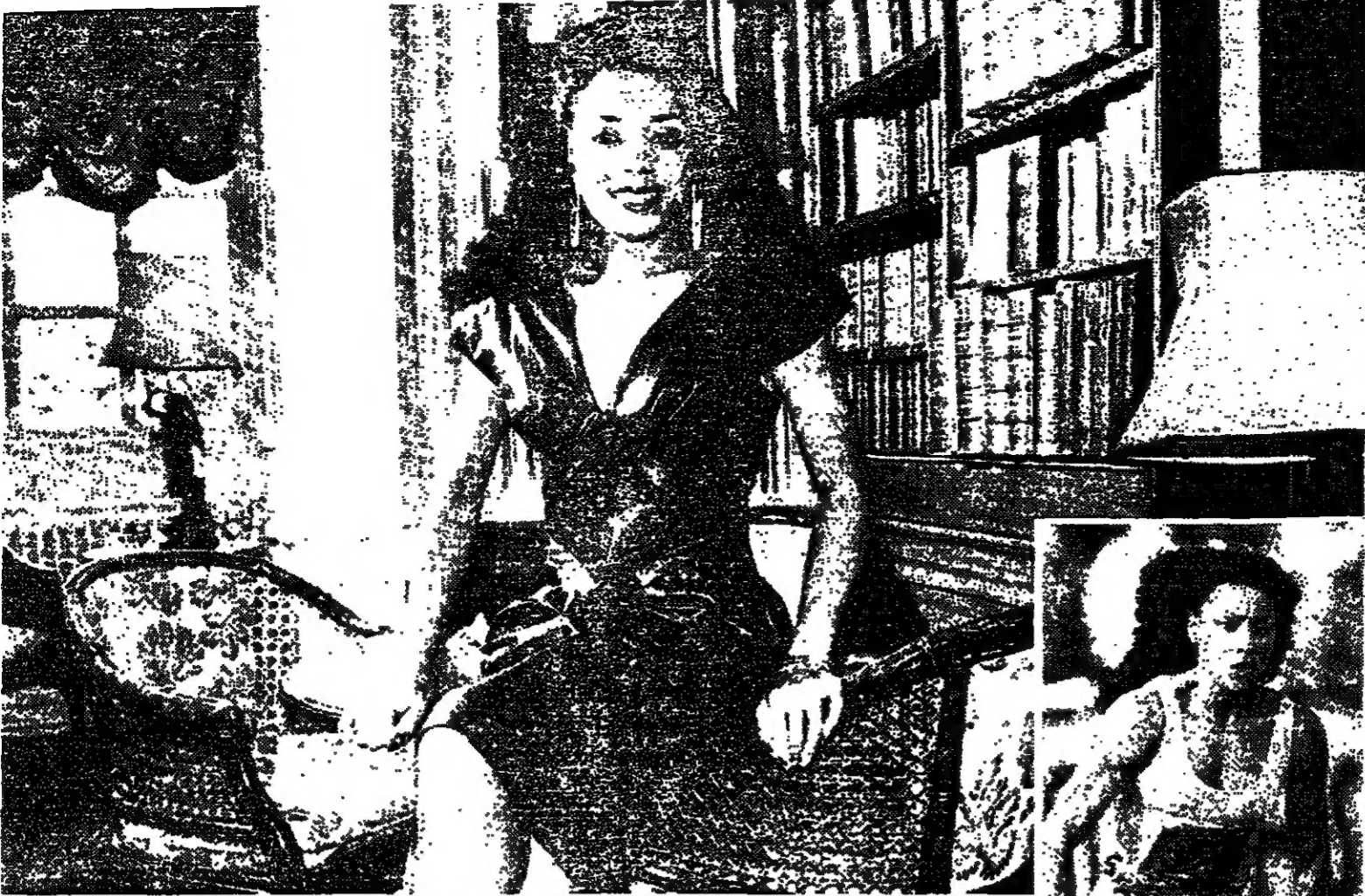
To put it in perspective, it is like Steve Cram's mile world record being beaten by more than five seconds or the marathon world record by three minutes. If she had done it at Birmingham last weekend in her own Olympic trials, she would have finished seventh in the men's 100 metres final.

Little happens these days in athletics without controversy, so it is hardly surprising that Joyner has run into one. Whether the wind blew is the contentious issue: in the triple jump competition adjacent to the 100-metre straight, the wind had been blowing at more than twice the limit permitted for records to be ratified.

Joyner, like her eyes through out interview, is unwavering: "I didn't feel the wind at all during the race, and I knew it was legal. They announced later that the wind gauge read zero and it was working. It had been working perfectly the whole week, the whole time." As if to prove the case, the following day she ran 10.70 and 10.61, both legal, the third and second fastest times in history.

If the breakthrough for Joyner was startling, it took its time coming. She was born in Los Angeles, 23 years ago, one of 11 children. She began sprinting when aged seven at the local Sugar Ray Robinson Foundation Centre. "I was always good. No training, just got out there and run."

By the time she was 20 and graduated to UCLA, she came under the guidance of the coach, Bobby Kersee, and was taking training seriously. Her studies at college were in psychology. That was not incidental but critical, and still provides the cornerstone for much of her success. "The techniques that I learned then I still



Hidebound: Florence Griffith-Joyner displays her off-track fashion sense (above), and in record-breaking style at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis last month (right). (Main photograph: Graham Wood)

apply today. Visualization, seeing the race beforehand, going over it all day in my mind, how I feel, the time I can run, the belief that I can do it," she explains.

Joyner won her first colleges title in 1982, had graduated to an Olympic 200 metres silver medal in 1984 (albeit in the absence of the eastern bloc sprinters), but owes much of her current form to the failure of 1986. "I did not have the motivation that season and should not have raced."

In the meantime, she had made it difficult to ignore her: the designer racing kit and the painted fingernails were her trademarks. "At one point in 1986, my nails were over six inches long, and I had to start races on my knuckles."

Last summer, her form improved. After an arduous winter—

"I would train before work, during lunch and after work"—she came back good enough to win another silver, this time in a world championships, and with every body present.

In October, she married Al and the training has progressively become something they have worked out together, more apart from Kersee's group. "Although, I've always been a solitary athlete, not a groupie," she stresses. Even at the start of the summer though, her training was geared towards the 200 metres and perhaps doubling at 400 metres.

Al had sensed she was coming good some months before. Al is confident, too. "I knew something good was coming, when I had to start riding the bike last winter to keep up with her during the road runs," he laughs.

Then, after the first 100 metres race at Santa Monica on June 6, they knew something was up. Three weeks later, a 10.89sec run at San Diego settled the issue. They would run the 100 and 200 metres at the trials.

The split with Kersee finally came after Indianapolis. They still have not spoken. "I just felt I wasn't getting the attention from Bobby and he didn't have the time." Kersee is married to and coaches Al's sister, Jackie, the heptathlon world champion.

Joyner dismisses suggestions that she will not repeat her last times in Seoul: "I'll just get better for the Games." The motivation tapes and the self-hypnosis that she practises while Al rubs her down after workouts ferry her towards that shore.

Demierre surges well clear of squabbling pack

By Peter Bryan

The lone ride for 70 miles of Sir Demierre which brought him victory in yesterday's stage of the Kellogg's Tour of Britain from Manchester to Liverpool almost paled into insignificance with what was happening behind.

Demierre, aged 30, and basking in his first win of the year, could hardly believe his eyes as he watched the ferocity of the sprint for second place between a bunch of 30, including the overall race leader, Malcolm Elliott, and Joy McLaughlin. Last year's winner, only 20 seconds behind him on total time.

McLaughlin had won the previous day's stage, beating Elliott by inches and was desperate not only to take second place which carried a bonus of eight seconds, but because he was riding into his home town with thousands of vociferous supporters lining the two-mile finishing circuit.

McLaughlin had been at the front forcing the pace in an effort to negate a gap opened up by the world champion, Stephen Roche. Keith Reynolds and Mike Doyle who stayed clear until the Liverpool rider's efforts brought the escapees back into the main field with less than two miles to go.

On the last sharp corner where the road narrowed Elliott began his effort to strike the front before the uphill start final 100 yards. In the heat of the moment he appeared to be ridden wide by McLaughlin and had to check and restart his sprint.

McLaughlin stayed in front as the field raced to the line but with a superb effort Elliott had regained McLaughlin's bag of money. On a run-in McLaughlin appeared to lose

his line in a strong finishing burst. A

thumped McLaughlin on the back as the two crossed the line as though in disgust at the treatment meted out to him. The judges looked at the film before announcing that McLaughlin was second with Elliott third. McLaughlin in-

Today's stage

Stage 4a: Liverpool to Stoke (57 miles). Start 9.10 a.m. via Chester (10.00), Shrewsbury (10.30), Buxton (11.00), Stoke (11.30). Stage 4b: Stoke to Birmingham (61 miles). Start 12.00, via Lichfield (12.30), Birmingham (1.00). Wind speeds behind him on total time.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Sir Wattie spared final rehearsal

By Jenny MacArthur

Ian Stark, who is without a reserve horse for Seoul after the withdrawal yesterday of the injured Glenburnie from the Olympic squad, has been spared from competing with his Olympic horse, Sir Wattie, at the Barbours British Open horse trials, organized by Captain Mark Phillips, which begin today at Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire.

The other four Olympic riders, Virginia Leng on Master Craftsman, Phillips (Cartier), Karen Straker (Get Smart) and Lorna Clarke (Fearlath Mor), have all been asked by the selection committee to do the dressage and show jumping phases this weekend—their last outing before the horses have to go into quarantine for Seoul next week. They are unwilling to risk Sir Wattie, the most experienced horse in the team, who with two Badminton wins to his credit, has nothing to prove.

Glenburnie's withdrawal follows a tendon scan on the injured foreleg which kept him out of the final trials last weekend. The damage to the tendon is minimal but Stark, who has a high regard for his Badminton runner-up, has decided to rest him for the remainder of the season.

Stark may yet win this weekend's first prize of £2,000. He is riding his third advanced horse, Murphy. Himself, formerly owned by Leng, Stark has struck up an exciting partnership with the grey gelding—who had proved too big for Leng. They have been placed at each of their three outings, a run of success culminating in a win at Holker Hall last weekend.

Leng, who gained her fifth national title when winning the British Open last year on Night Cap, hopes to defend her title with her Olympic reserve horse, Beneficial. She will also ride Stark's former horse, Griffin.

The event, which consists of the open championship and two advanced classes, will be today with the dressage and finishes on Sunday with the cross-country.

HOCKEY

Late goals reward Spanish revival

From Sydney Friskin
Amsterdam

Great Britain 1
Spain 2

Great Britain were beaten by Spain in the Five Nations Tournament here yesterday in a match they could have won had they consolidated the lead taken four minutes before half-time.

Spain recovered to score two goals in the last nine minutes.

The fragility shown by the Spaniards on Tuesday, when they conceded seven goals without reply to the Netherlands, disappeared yesterday and they played as though their lives depended on the outcome.

There were two significant changes by Britain. Taylor coming back into goal in place of Pappin and Martin taking over from Garcia at right-half. Batchelor and Clift retained their places in attack after coming on as substitutes the previous day.

In the first half much Spanish energy was spent containing the British attack, although they did come near to scoring off the first short corner in the eleventh minute. Xavier Escude, one of three brothers in the side, misfired in front of goal.

Britain had missed a couple of

half chances but managed to score in the 31st minute. Dods sent Batchelor down the right wing and his centre led to a scramble inside the circle. The Spaniards, trying desperately to clear their lines, conceded a short corner from which Barber scored, the ball rising into the net off a defender's stick.

Spainforced their second short corner within a minute of the change-over, and Taylor saved a shot from Ignacio Escude.

For the next 15 minutes, Britain looked more inventive. A slip in the Spanish defence let in Kerly, but Joaquin Malgosa, who had made the mistake, recovered to deny Sherwin a shot from Kerly's centre.

Sherwin dribbled past two defenders and missed the target. Spain forced their third short corner in the 20th minute of the second half. A goal from a subtle scoop, for which he is well known. Five minutes before the end, Gomez completed a run on the right with a centre, and Oliva dashed in to score.

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TENNIS

Evert back and sharp as ever

From Barry Wood
Los Angeles

Chris Evert, looking surprisingly sharp after a five-week break from competition, casually brushed aside the second round challenge of Eva Pfaff, of West Germany, in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles yesterday.

She took an hour over her 6-2, 6-2 victory, bringing gasps of admiration as her crisp passing shots hit the lines time after time. Pfaff seemed almost over-whelmed by the occasion, strangely hesitant to hit out at the ball and reluctant to come in from the baseline to attack.

"She was so steady and hit the ball so deep it was difficult to come in. I couldn't do much with her," Pfaff confessed.

Her best opportunity of extending the match came at 4-2 in the second set when she held two break points on Evert's service. Had she been able to take that game and hold for 4-4, the outcome—with Evert under a little bit of pressure—might have been different.

"Considering I have had five weeks off and just had my honeymoon, I was happy with the way I played and didn't feel rusty at all," Evert said.

Protests follow county ban on pregnant competitors

By Louise Taylor

A decision by the Avon County netball association to bar women from playing during pregnancy is contrary to precedents established in many other sports and has precipitated a controversy within the game.

While the All England Netball Association considers protests over the ban and awaits medical reports which will guide it in deciding whether to issue a national ruling on a subject it describes as a "moral dilemma", most governing bodies of other sports have refused to take a formal stance on the issue.

Diana Corbett, coaching administrator of the Women's Squash Rackets Association, said: "You cannot expect governing bodies to rule on sporting involvement during pregnancy; individuals must be guided by their GP."

"We take no official line and there is nothing to suggest that we are ruling against women. Some women play until the safety-pin holding their skirt together will no longer do it. It probably doesn't do them a power of good, but how long someone continues playing is really all about good sense and common sense."

"Every one is going to be at least a bit diffident about playing drop-shots against a pregnant opponent. In official matches, such a situation would

give rise to embarrassment and is therefore not on, but friendships are different. I would not advise pregnant women with a history of miscarriages or aged over 30 to continue playing squash at any level."

Opponents tend to hold back against pregnant women, thereby providing the opposing team with an advantage. This argument is particularly pertinent to contact sports and Linda Whitehead, secretary of the Women's Football Association, said: "When it comes to areas like tackling, playing while pregnant can be unfair on opponents."

While the question as to whether or not to continue is entirely at the discretion of the individual, and a very few carry on, the majority stop immediately but it is their decision."

Similarly, the British Amateur Hockey Association, which has a number of women's teams, issues no ruling on pregnancy. Tom Keaveney, its secretary, said: "We have an open mind on the subject."

However, the All England Volleyball Association, which offers "no written guidelines." Although pregnancy is a natural condition, mixing it with certain sports can prove a recipe for miscarriage.

Volleyball, which involves

players frequently diving on to their stomachs, is a prime example, and Roger Ball, of the English Volleyball Association, said: "We have no official policy, but women quickly realize they have to stop. The very latest stage of pregnancy that a woman has played at is four months."

The problem of pregnant jockeys has yet to occur in racing. Dr. Michael Allen, medical consultant to the Jockey Club, stressed that the idea is not advisable. "Riding races at any stage of pregnancy is definitely contra-indicated," he said.

His concern is for women's safety. "When it comes to riding, our boys don't hold off for anybody."

The picture alters in other equestrian pursuits, however. Lucinda Green was a member of the British three-day event team that collected a silver medal in 1984, despite having her pregnancy confirmed before departing for Los Angeles to compete in arguably the most dangerous of Olympic sports.

Green's gamble paid dividends as she creased to a philosophy widely adhered to in sport: that it is up to the individual to keep playing for as long as she both feels able and wishes to—personal medical advice permitting.

Dixon leads recovery from early setback

From Joyce Whitehead
Amsterdam

Great Britain 2
Soviet Union 2

Viskey Dixon and Jane Sixsmith saved Great Britain from disaster in the first match of the BMW trophy tournament here yesterday. The Russians had scored in the twentieth and 21st minutes before Dixon converted a penalty stroke and then Sixsmith, brought on for Parker at half-time, equalized in the fifth minute.

Great Britain had lacked the initiative to penetrate a steady Russian defence in the first half. The Soviet Union were led, as usual, by Kravchenko, who was as agile and creative as ever. Their goalkeeper, Kondrutzka, was particularly good. Great Britain had eight penalty corners but little success thanks to the goalkeeper's pads.

RUGBY UNION

Recruiting campaign

Northampton, who finished bottom of the Courage club championship second division last season, have gone on a recruiting drive during the summer. They have signed John Steele, the Army and Combined Services stand-off half, Rob Tebbutt and Mark Charles, the Leicester loose forwards, and Willie Carr, a flanker, who has just left the Army.

The club, whose former committee was ousted at the annual

The Russian goals came as a surprise. The first came from a penalty corner by Kanaporenko, who was later given a green card. The second came from Tachishik, after Banks had mis-judged a move from the Great Britain goal.

Dixon held Great Britain together. Her timing was good and her many interceptions kept the Soviet Union at bay. Near the end of the match misfortune struck McBride, who needed two stitches after the ball hit her on the chin. Her place was taken by Brewer.

Tomorrow Britain play Spain, who won the previous encounter 5-1 in July. GREAT BRITAIN: W. Barker, G. Atkins, K. Brown, M. Nevill, V. Dixon, W. Fraser, B. Hamby, V. McBride (sub: C. Brewer), M. Mitchell, A. Parker (sub: J. Sixsmith), A. Ramsey.

UNKNOWN: E. Kondrutzka, E. Kravchenko, N. Kravchenko, A. Butschmene, N. Tchepudayeva, E. Rasukova, Y. Barabichkova, M. Tchepudayeva, Sub: S. Kharchevskaya and V. Kharcheva.

meeting, have launched a £30,000 appeal to improve the ground and floodlights. After a triumphant tour of the Far East, Bath return to Europe with a selection problem as three internationals battle for a second-row position. On Sunday they meet Toulon, the French champions, as part of an international tournament at Leiden in The Netherlands. Redman and Morrison compete with Cronin for a place in the second row.

Voy fears scale of drug use

Colorado Springs (AFP)—The use of drugs among American Olympic athletes has become widespread, according to a chief medical official, who also said he favoured unannounced drug testing.

Dr Robert Voy, chief medical officer for the United States Olympic Committee, said he backed an International Olympic Committee plan to employ random testing during the 1988 Games in Seoul.

"It better be in Seoul," he said. "If we continue with announced testing, forget it." Voy said he thought drug use—especially of anabolic steroids—was widespread among US Olympic athletes.

"The East European countries don't have a corner on the market for drug abuse," he added. "Our drug abuse is a

ATHLETICS

BAAB to fill vacancies

The British Amateur Athletic Board's council yesterday decided to fill the vacant pole vault and men and women's discus places for Seoul, irrespective of the athletes achieving an Olympic qualifying standard.

The selectors' decision opens a way for Paul Mardle, of Wolverhampton, and Northern Ireland's Jacqueline McKernan, who won the discus trials at Birmingham last weekend, to compete in Seoul.

Andy Ashurst, of Sale Harriers, heads the pole vault rankings with a height five centimetres short of the required standard of 3.45 metres. He competed at Birmingham with a damaged hamstring and must now prove his fitness for next month.

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Voy said that testing of American boxers and basketball players had revealed a stimulant use, while weightlifters were found to have taken steroids.

"The only sports we've found no drug abuse in are hockey and figure skating," he added.

Voy said that the IOC proposal to give unannounced tests was better because athletes simply would stop using drugs immediately before a competition.

Similar to the harder task in Ottawa yesterday before he won the Letson Prize at the Canadian rifle championships.

Eleven competitors had tied with every shot in the bull at 300, 500 and 600 yards to score 105. The tie-break eventually narrowed to three before Pugsley took the prize with his 52nd consecutive bullseye. Bill Baldwin, of Canada, was second and Gary Childs, third.

The British cadets continued to shoot well and Dominic Harvey, of Epsom College, won the Viscount Wakefield trophy, in the cadet aggregate, with 251 out of 260.

SHOOTING

Late call engages Breton for Seoul

Adrian Breton, aged 25, a telephone engineer from Guernsey, was selected yesterday to fill a late extra vacancy in the British Olympic team and will be entered for the rapid fire pistol event in Seoul (Our Shooting Correspondent writes).

The extra quota place, offered by the International Shooting Union (UIT) under their "wild card" scheme for filling slots which become vacant, provides a boost for British pistol shooters.

They had not won any quota places during the two-year series of world cup matches although

Three out of four keep Summertown in triples

By Gordon Allan

Three of the Summertown (Oxford) team who won the Woolwich EBA fours championship on Wednesday, advanced to the third round of the triples at Worthing yesterday. Steve Beachon, Chris Allen and Gary Harrington beat Loughborough 25-12, and Branksome Park (Bournemouth) 17-15.

The win over Loughborough was straightforward. Branksome Park—Roger Tiddy, Graham Longman and David Pearce—presented many more problems, and it needed all Harrington's drawing and driving skills, in particular, to turn the match during the last few ends.

Branksome Park held a match-winning two on the last end before Harrington dived the jack decisively.

Ray Cutts, a current England player, could not get time away from work and withdrew from the Marlborough (Ipswich) team, who played Desborough Town (Northamptonshire) in the first round in the morning. It made no difference. Steve Topple took Cutts's place and Marlboro won 35-4. At one point, they led 26-0.

A club's Motors (Oxford) triple—Brian Bull, Mick Sadler and George Hollis—who are playing together at county level for the first time this season, overcame Mansfield Colliery 24-18, and two past EBA singles champions, Ron Keating and David Cutler, with Kevin Arnold at lead, proved a potent combination for Plymouth Civil Service, who beat Tilehurst (Reading) 22-12.

BOWLS

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RUGBY UNION

Fiji acts with haste to ban rebel seven

Wellington, New Zealand (AP)—Six Fijian players and a radio commentator were banned indefinitely by the Fiji Rugby Union, in Suva yesterday, for travelling to South Africa to play the game.

The players and radio commentator, Graham Eden, left Fiji hoping to join the world XV through South Africa which fell through because the French and Argentinean rugby unions barred their players.

The six players are: prop, Rusiate Namoro, flanker, Alifereti Dere, lock, Jo Toga, winger, Niko Balevatu, hooker, Alipate Raberita, and centre, Savanaca Ari.

The Fiji Rugby Union, said Eden had applied to take the players to South Africa and had been told his application had been turned down.

Mick Mills, the Stoke City manager, hopes to end his search for a centre half this week with the signing of Kevin Moran, Manchester United's Republic of Ireland international.

Warren Aspinall, the Aston Villa forward, who was placed on the transfer-list at the weekend as a disciplinary measure for being sent off against St Mirren, is wanted by Walsley.

